Tiya Dely: First Lady of the Airwaves signs off

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FEW PEOPLE IN THE ENTERTAINMENT industry can claim that they have worked in all media: Stage, radio, movies and television.

One of those geniuses few was Tiya Dely Magpayo—on-air counselor of the love-struck and lovelorn for 65 years.

Last night, around 6:10

FIDELA Mendoza-Magpayo

TIYA DELY/ A9

ACROSS / A13

Police admit holding 9 missing activists in camp

BUSINESS / B1

Peso falls to 12-month low of 46.29 to $1

WORLD / A20

Pressure mounts on Thai premier to quit

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, September 2, 2008 • 8 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 269 P18 inquirer.net

Pacman: 3 more fights, and he'll join politics

By Alexis Pepa

THREE MORE FIGHTS AND MANNY Pacquiao is ready for the main event—politics. And he will be trained by no less than the political party of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Knocked out by reelectionist Rep. Dist-

PACMAN/ A2

MANILA PENINSULA SIEGE

CHR: Arrest of newsmen illegal

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WARNING AGAINST MEDIA REPRESsion, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) yesterday denounced the abuse by the police of the rights of journalists by arbitrarily arresting and handcuffing them during their coverage of the military rebels' takeover of the Peninsula Manila hotel last year.

The CHR recommended the formal investigation of the police officials involved prior to the possible filing of criminal and administrative charges against them.

In a 28-page resolution, the CHR ruled that the police had violated the journalists' rights to liberty, security of persons and freedom from arbitrary arrest when they were arrested and herded to Camp Bagong Diwa following the Nov. 29 siege.

"The facts do not support a clear finding of repression or denial of freedom of the press. However, the Commission warns that acts to detain members of the media without clear legal basis dangerously stand astride the borderline between valid police power and media repression in violation of fundamental freedoms," according to the CHR resolution released to the media.

"We maintain that the acts of the police and military to physically limit the freedom of movement and right ... against arbitrary detention of some members of the media constitute acts that only just fall short of actual infringement on press freedom," the CHR said.

"They have the effect of implicit threats to members of media of possible subsequent punishment if their reports displease the authorities."

The CHR said that the conflicting statements by the police to explain the arrests "show uncertainty in their ac-

CHR ARREST/ A6

NOEL ALAMAR, dcPRM reporter, stares in protest the plastic handcuffs used by police during the Manila Peninsula siege in this file photo taken on Nov. 30, 2007.

Senate given say in drafting new peace pact

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has agreed to give the Senate a direct hand in the drafting of a new peace accord with Moro rebels after the memorandum of agreement (MOA) on ancestral domain got shot down for lack of consultation with a broad sector.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago yesterday said that she discussed with Ms Arroyo constitutional issues arising from the MOA and the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpep).

SENATE/ A5

Davao bus blast kills 6

PNP eyes extortion gang linked to Abus

A MUSLIM BOY prostrates himself and places his forehead on the ground, expressing complete submission and humility before Allah, at the start of Ramadan, at the Golden Mosque in Manila on Monday. Ramadan is the ninth and holiest month of the Islamic year observed with dawn-to-dusk fasting, festivities and abstinence.

By Orlando Dinoy and Allan Nawal

DIGOS CITY—THE IMPROvised explosive device appeared to have the signature of an extortion gang suspected to have links with the dreaded Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

Placed on an overhead baggage compartment and remotely detonated by a mobile phone, the device packed with nails ripped through a passenger bus at the public terminal here at 2:45 p.m. yesterday, killing at least six people and wounding 30 others, police said.

Most of the casualties suffered head wounds from the blast that nearly tore off the roof and shattered windows of the vehicle owned by Metro Shuttle Bus Co., said Senior Supt. Cesario Datuin, Davao del Sur police chief.

No one has claimed responsibility for the bombing as the Muslim world observed the first day of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, but Datuin-Inc suspected that the extortion gang of al-Khobar was behind the attack.

Al-Khobar has been blamed for dozens of attacks on bus companies plying southern and central Mindanao. It is said to be an ally of the Abu Sayyaf, which is being linked to the in-

DAVAO/ A8

MEMBERS of the Scene of the Crime Office (Soco) piece together fragments to determine the kind of bomb that exploded aboard the Metro Shuttle bus No. 309 at the public bus terminal of Digos City on Monday.

Muslims pray for peace in holy month of Ramadan

MUSLIMS PRAYED AT YESTERDAY'S start of the holy fasting month of Ramadan for Allah's intervention to end violence in Mindanao.

Mohammad Mindalasang, president of the 300-member Tacbilan Muslim Association, said he was saddened by the recent outbreak of fighting between government troops and factions of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"We are asking Allah for an end of the war there in Mindanao. We are sure that he would listen to our prayers and pleas as people are dying there because of this war," Mindalasang said.

MUSLIMS/ A8

Greatness of spirit runs in this family from India

By Ma. Cecile P. Daya

GREATNESS OF SPIRIT COULD RUN IN the family. And whoever said that seedlings cannot thrive in the shadow of the huge parent tree could be proven wrong.

Husband and wife Prakash and Manchikal Amte of India, both doctors, are proof that the greatness of one's parents could live on, not necessarily by some wonder of genetics, but because noble examples set by one generation can flourish and bear fruit in the next.

The couple earned this year's Ramon Magsaysay award for Community Leadership, the latest of many honors received in their home country and abroad. Their portraits, for example, have appeared on a Red Cross postage stamp issued by Monaco.

Prakash's late father, Murlidhar Amte, was also an "RM" awardee (Public Service, 1985). A humanitarian and follower of Mahatma Gandhi, "Baba" (father), died early this year at the age of 96. Books have been written and a film has been made on Murlidhar's work caring for lepers.

Along with brother Vikas, Prakash grew up in Anandwan in the Indian state of Maharashtra, in an ashram (a spiritual commune) and a rehabilitation center for leprosy patients founded by his father. "We went to school and played with the children of the (leper) community," Prakash recalls.

After becoming a doctor, Prakash

GREATNESS/ A2

Hurricane Gustav churns toward New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS—HURRICANE GUSTav charged toward the largely deserted coast of Louisiana early Monday, but appeared destined to make landfall to the west of a city that was still recovering three years after Katrina's devastating blow.

Those who heeded the days of warnings to get out watched from shelters and hotel rooms hundreds of kilometers away, praying the powerful Category 3 storm and its 194-kph (120-mph) winds would pass without the same deadly toll.

"We're nervous, but we just have to keep trusting in God that we don't get the water again," said Lyndon Guidry, who bit the road for Florida just a few months after he was able to return to his home in New Orleans. "We just have to put our faith in God."

The brutal memories of Katrina, a Category 5 storm that flooded 80 percent of New Orleans and killed more than 1,600 along the Gulf Coast, led officials to aggressively insist everyone in Gustav's path to flee from there. As the storm neared, the streets of the city were empty—save for National

HURRICANE/ A2

Sing no sad songs for Mang Pandoy who died as he lived, still a poor man

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FELIPE NADINO, MORE POPularly known as "Mang Pandoy," who became an icon of relief and refuge promises, lived and died poor like many Filipinos.

The 63-year-old Mang Pandoy succumbed to tuberculosis on Aug. 26 at about 6:30 p.m. at his home in Doña Nicasia Subdivision, Barangay Gumamela-Bth, Quezon City.

His effort to prominence in 1992 when he was presented by host Randy David as an ex-

MANG/ A6

There are limits to charity, says Randy David

UP PROF RANDY DAVID EXpressed sadness over the death of Mang Pandoy, saying that the gardener was a victim of the dysfunctional structure of opportunity in the country.

"There are limits to charity. ... They (the poor) will have to learn to help themselves," David told the Inquirer in a phone interview, stressing that charity cannot solve poverty until the "entire structure of

THERE/ A6

MANG PANDOY gave Filipinos poverty in fans, according to INQUIRER columnist Randy David.

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

SWERTRES

2 PM	5 PM	9 PM
10	28	28
21	1	1
1	4	5
6		

FOUR DIGIT

2 PM	5 PM	9 PM
3	6	9
1	3	4
5		

MEGALOTTO 6/45

13 14 15 19 41 45

P26,566,518.60

US soldier safe in Abu attack

AFP says Yanks not involved in combat, only humanitarian work

By John S. Alipala and Pfc. Cecilia Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AN AMERICAN SERVICEman reportedly escaped unhurt after Abu Sayyaf rebels ambushed a Philippine Marine convoy in Patikul, Sulu, killing five Filipino troopers and wounding 10 others.

The Green Army National Guard, in a statement posted on its website Sunday, said "a soldier deployed to the Southern Philippines is ambushed and safe after a rebel attack on a convoy of the Armed Forces of the Philippines."

The statement came from Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines.

The statement came from Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Alexander Yano was quick to clarify the American was not involved in combat operations. He said the American was on a humanitarian mission at a nearby camp and is stationed in the medical evacuation of the dead and wounded.

According to the Green statement, "the soldier is a member of a platoon from the Battalion, 1Stabilization Support Battalion, deployed to the region (Sulu) in May of this year and the platoon is assigned to the US Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines."

Americans were not involved in combat operations, he said the American was on a humanitarian mission at a nearby camp and is stationed in the medical evacuation of the dead and wounded.

Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, commander of the Philippine Marine Corps, said Friday that immediately killed in the ambush and another died in the hospital on Sunday.

Yano, in an interview over ABC, reiterated "there were no American personnel involved in the ambush."

10-minute battle

Yano said the US soldier had stayed at the Philippine Marines Battalion Landing Team 5/MBLT-11 camp in Barangay Bodbod when the convoy was ambushed some 200 meters away.

The attack triggered a 10-minute firefight between the government forces and the Abu Sayyaf.

The US troops assisted in the

JDV courts Villar; Joey being wooed by Erap

By Christine V. Esguerra

FORMER SPEAKER JOSE DE Venecia Jr. publicly announced he was building a new coalition and eyeing Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. to be its standard-bearer in 2010.

In an ambush interview, the Pangasinan representative said he would bring "50 to 60 percent" of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats membership into the new "coalition of the righteous."

The coalition is apparently intended to be the ruling administration's vehicle for the 2010 presidential election, with De Venecia, Lakas president emeritus, said reporters.

But he admitted he had yet to formally invite Villar to join him.

Meanwhile, the former speaker's son and namesake, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, is being touted as a congressional or municipal candidate in 2010 by another party.

The spokesperson of former President Joseph Estrada's political party yesterday said the young De Venecia had been offered a slot in the opposition's unanimous lineup as early as Four months ago.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Satur Ocampo, Partido ng Manggagawa spokesperson, said Joey de Venecia was an acceptable candidate.

He cited De Venecia's involvement in the $329-million National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp. The Arroyo administration eventually canceled the deal amid allegations of huge kickbacks.

"He was the one who came out with the truth," the lawmaker said.

De Venecia on Sunday said he would most likely seek the congressional seat to be vacated by his brother in Pangasinan. The elder De Venecia is on his final and last term.

The political plans of the young De Venecia, however, are drawing flak from some senators.

"There is nothing to disqualify him but this could be interpreted as money power," said Sen. Ma. Milagros Drilon-Enrile in an interview with reporters.

TOP TEACHERS TROOP TO PALACE
President Arroyo (left) receives at Malacañang Monday Homestead Foundation Inc.'s Outstanding Teachers for 2008, from left, (1) Marie Therese M. Bagas, Irma R. Maldoban, Jessica M. Antipuesto, Lyra Z. Padilla, Maybelyn R. Antinquin, Dr. George S. K. Ty, Homestead Group chair; Rowena R. Hilvanda, Erma Rabara, Jeanette G. Dela, Naomi O. Obenza and Virginia C. Cuevas.

'Employees, not GMA, should get pay hike'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Cl Yap

THE RANK AND FILE IN THE GOVERNMENT—not President Macapagal-Arroyo, her Cabinet, senators and congressmen—should get a pay hike, according to members who questioned Malacañang's move to increase only a salary hike in the proposed 2009 national budget.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said that while he agreed the honorary deserved a pay raise, it should be limited to positions that would attract and retain good talent, such as lawyers, if the salaries were high enough.

Pangilinan said the President, top government officials and lawmakers should be the last ones to get juicy a hike since they would be considering and approving the proposal.

Sen. Pia Cayetano said a salary hike for the top officials in government was "inappropriate" at this time.

"I think the rank and file should be prioritized because they are the ones whose pockets are hurting from the high cost of transport and food. The lawmakers have perks and benefits," Lacson said. "Why are they receiving the same rate? I think the President should not get a higher salary, she should even give back her salaries to the public."

Sen. Francis Escudero said a salary hike for government officials and lawmakers would reach a total of P1 billion) and this amount was better spent on other more pressing items such as school and housing subsidies.

"We are not being hypocrites, we all know government salaries are really low. The question is when items should be prioritized? Raising the pay of government officials would not make corruption go away or get more equal overall. There is no guarantee doubling their salaries would solve corruption in the country," Escudero said.

Early retirement

President Macapagal-Arroyo may be "overworked, underpaid and stressed out" but she doesn't deserve a pay hike, opposition stalwarts said yesterday.

"Perhaps what the President deserves is an early retirement incentive," said Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Or maybe, an United Opposition (UNO) spokesperson Ariel Inton said, Mr. Arroyo could use a "better paying job elsewhere."

Although HRD endorsed a proposal to increase the salary of government employees, it said the President should be excluded.

"We support an increase in the salary of government workers. Government workers, like many Filipinos, can hardly make ends meet because of the economic crisis under the Arroyo administration," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, UNO president.

On Sunday, Press Secretary Jess Dureza said there was nothing irregular about doubling the President's salary, as all state employees would be given a pay raise in the next four years.

Dureza was reacting to criticism of the four-year salary upgrade plan for state workers that would make the President's monthly pay to P328,000 from P90,000. The proposal has been submitted by the Department of Budget and Management to Congress.

With a report from Allison M. Lopez

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Resign, lawyers urge CA justices under probe

By Margaux C. Ortiz

OUT OF DELICADEZA and concern for what is left of the court's integrity, Court of Appeals justices directly involved in the allegations of bribery in connection with a case of Manila Electric Co. must resign, the lobby group Philippine Bar Association (PBA) said yesterday.

"The resignation is a necessary sacrifice that needs to be made by those whose names have been dragged into the scandal," PBA national president Felicitas Bautista said in a statement also signed by the group's executive vice president Rogelio Mirhan and eight other PBA officials.

Bautista said almost a month after the first public declarations of bribery by Court of Appeals Associate Justice Jose Sabio Jr., the issue had been relegated to secondary importance in the news.

Swift cycle

"The journalism cycle is swift, but the cycle of corruption in the judiciary that the media have reported is monstrous and seemingly unending. The repeated or improper influences on magistracies has been described as an anomaly that is not new and has been known to exist for a long time, but has never been talked about in whispers in the corridors of justice," the IBP head said.

Bautista said the Supreme Court's creation of an investigating panel was commendable, but "completely unnecessary."

"We expect the inquiry to be exhaustive, and we do not question the integrity and qualifications of the investigators," he said.

Opportunity

The IBP president said the need to address corruption in the judiciary went beyond the ongoing investigation.

"The honorable magistracies of the Court of Appeals now have the opportunity to show the entire country that there are no crooked ones, so to speak," Bautista said.

"The integrated Bar of the Philippines joins the Filipino people in their fervent desire to fight corruption at the highest levels of our courts. Our call is as drastic as it is urgent," he said.

Sabio had spearheaded the controversial decision penned by Justice Hicrete Favis Incurday, the Securities and Exchange Commission (Sec) ruling jurisdiction of the battle between the Lopez family and the Government Service Insurance System for management control of Meralco.

Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said the panel will submit its recommendations to the court on Sept. 4.

Asked to comment on the IBP's call, Marquez said: "The statement was addressed to the justices. They should be the ones to answer it."

He said the case would be tackled during the Supreme Court's en banc session next week. "Let's give an opportunity to the person," Marquez said.

Pacman: 3 more fights, and he'll join politics

From page A1

Jose Antonino Gonzalez in his political debut in May last year, the Bicolnon yesterday said he would quit boxing next year in time for the 2010 elections.

He will videot men on a comgovernment agency to run for a local mercial basis, Gonzalez said.

"It will be Jeremy De La Hoya, World Boxing Council light-welterweight king said.

Pacquiao's immediate concern is to defend another boxing legend, American Oscar De La Hoya, when they fight in Las Vegas on Dec. 6 at 1:07 a.m.

3 months' preparation

"Actually, my parents were dita (De La Hoya Ryhte) is his my last fight. But I told them I can still fight around two more fights after the in Hoya. So maybe around July or August next year, that's when I will retire," he said in Filipino.

Dubbed the world's best pound-for-pound fighter, Pacquiao is not exactly a spring chicken anymore. He will turn 30 on Dec. 17. De La Hoya is 35.

Pacquiao said he saw no problem in moving up to the welterweight class for the De La Hoya fight.

"It really depends on my preparations. I need three months to prepare, to get in the condition that I want to be for the fight," he said.

Inducted into Kampi

Pacquiao professed admiration for De La Hoya.

"He was my idol when I was starting out. Now I can't believe I am fighting him. So maybe to fight him is already a big honor. More so if I beat him."

He declined to reveal what his strategy would be for the fight but said he had started to train and would fly to the US on Sept. 14 to continue with his training.

"It was Jesus De La Hoyal would bring honor to the country and my countrymen. My political career will be a help to them too," he said.

Pacquiao was at the office of Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno to take his oath as a full-fledged member of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), the party of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Puno is the Kampi president.

The oath-taking was witnessed by Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, Pidacan Rep. Antonio Alvarez and other party officials.

'You can't eat honor'

Clad in boxing cupdog and black pants, Pacquiao was mobbed by office workers.

"Every time I fight, when I give to house. But you can't eat that. They (the presidential couple) help because their lives are so hard ... I want to help them in any way," the boxer stressed.

He said that he would never allow himself to be swayed by the political system.

"If I were easily swayed up by systems, I would have been swayed up by now while I am champion," he said in Filipino.

"My ego would have been blowed since I've gone a long way in my career. But Manny Pacquiao is still the same. You will see that Manny Pacquiao won't be swept up by any system."

Politics is service

Puno said Pacquiao could coordinate to bringing back normalcy in Mindanao.

"I think Manny can help if he becomes a member of Kampi as he can help our work in bringing peace to the area," Puno said.

He said the party had yet to decide what position Pacquiao should seek in the 2010 elections.

"We know that if he runs for senator, hands down he will win. The problem is that he is only 30 year old and the minimum [age requirement for senator] is 35," Puno said.

This would be the second time that Pacquiao would run for an elective office. In 2007, he lost to Darlene Antonino-Custodio in their congressional fight.

This time, Puno said he and the party would "train" Pacquiao to politics.

"The tactics will be easy. The soul of public service is doing service and Manny has had that for a long time even when he was not a politician. He will just continue that. He can learn the tactics to us."

Pacquiao was earlier sworn in as a member of the Liberal Party candy Senator Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, but Puno noted that Pacquiao had also formally ran under Kampi and the two parties had a concurrent membership arrangement.

Hurricane churns toward New Orleans

From page A1

Guardsmen and just about every officer on the city's police force standing watch for looters.

In all, nearly 1 million people left south Louisiana, as did tens of thousands from coastal Mississippi, Alabama and southeastern Texas. Even presidential politics took a back seat to the storm, as the Republican Party scaled back its convention plans in deference to Gustav's threat.

Getting it right this time

"It's amazing. It makes me feel really good that so many people are saying, 'We as Americans, are as the world, have to get this right this time,'" New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said. "We cannot afford to screw up again."

Gustav, which killed at least 94 people as it tore through the Caribbean, will test three years of planning and rebuilding as the Gulf Coast following Katrina's wrath. Billions of dollars are at stake, as Gustav threatens industries ranging from sugar to shipping.

If production is significantly interrupted from the region's refineries and offshore oil and gas platforms, price spikes could hit all American motorists at the pumps.

Officials pressed they were ready to respond. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said search and rescue would be the top priority once the storm passed.

High-water vehicles, helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, Coast Guard cutters and a Navy vessel that is essentially a floating emergency room have been posted around the strike zone.

'We can recover mountains'

"I feel a little nervous about the storm and exactly where it's going to end up, but I also feel real good about the resources," Nagin said. "Man, if we have resources, we can move mountains."

HOT WITHOUT HIS BABIES Rosemarie Jarreau (center) and her son Dieontae Jenkins hug their puppies as an emergency pet evacuation center before boarding the last Amtrak train which left New Orleans, Louisiana, for Memphis, Tennessee, on Sunday, after a mandatory evacuation was ordered ahead of Hurricane Gustav. AFP

Forecasters said Gustav would strengthen slightly before making landfall on Monday morning. Rain started falling in New Orleans before sunset on Sunday, and tropical storm-force winds had reached the southeastern tip of the state.

At 2 a.m. EDT (0600 GMT) on Monday, the National Hurricane Center said Gustav was centered about 270 km (170 miles) south-southeast of New Orleans and was moving northwest near 27 kph (16 mph).

Gustav had top sustained winds of 189 kph (115 mph), said to likely to stay a Category 3 storm when it makes landfall west of New Orleans. Category 3 storms have winds between 178 kph (111 mph) and 208 kph (130 mph).

Tropical storm-force winds had reached the southeastern tip of the state and winds were picking up at New Orleans' City Hall, but they had not reached the 99-kph (50-mph) limit that would lead police to call officers in from patrols.

'Dirty' side of storm

New Orleans appeared likely to be on the "dirty" side of the storm—where windfall is heaviest and tornadoes are possible, but the storm surge is lower.

If forecasts hold, the city would experience storm surge of only 1.2 to 1.8 meters (4 to 6 feet), compared to a surge of 3 to 4.3 meters (10 to 14 feet) at the site of landfall, according to Lewey Walters, a hurricane expert meteorologist with the National Hurricane Center.

Katrina, by comparison, brought a storm surge of 7.6 meters (25 feet). Some of neither Katrina levee that preempted Mayor Nagin and Gov. Bobby Jindal to order a massive evacuations that succeeded in removing 80 percent of the population, or roughly 1.9 million people, from southern Louisiana.

The evacuation continued late into Sunday evening, with Jindal issuing a final plea on the estimated 100,000 people who decided to stay and ride out the storm.

"If you've not evacuated, please do so," Jindal said. "There are still a few hours left."

Ride out of town

Adam Woods didn't need the reminder. A Coast Guard helicopter pilot who left his roof after Katrina struck, said this time, he and his lab rats Shandela headed in the city's Union Station for a ride out of town.

"I've got oxygen in my lungs," the 33-year-old landscaper said. "Remember, you've got to be able to have problems."

The final trains out of New Orleans left with fewer than 1,100 people on board, while one of the last buses to make the rounds of the city pulled into Union Station empty. Every officer in the department was on duty as police made their final rounds around 7 p.m.

"When the 911 calls start coming in, we'll know how many people are left in town," said police superintendent Warren Riley.

The city's emergency medical service had received only 26 calls as of Monday midnight, a fraction of what they received on the night before Katrina.

Staying behind

Jeffrey Cantrell was among those staying behind. Cantrell wrestled larvae in his neighborhood restaurant to the days after Katrina struck.

Despite promises of police protection, Cantrell said's willing to leave his business a second time.

"I have shotguns, what I collect guns actually," he said. "So I have plenty of guns to shoot, plenty of looters."

Gustav comes the seventh named storm in the Atlantic hurricane season. The eighth, Tropical Storm Hanna, was strengthening about 160 km (100 miles) from the Bahamas. Though computer track and intensity are difficult to predict days in advance, long-term projections showed the storm could come ashore along the border of Georgia and South Carolina late in the week. AP

IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) FOR R.A. 9502

CUT THE PRICE OF MEDICINES

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

R.A. 9502 also known as the Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008

To: All Drug Manufacturers, Importers, Traders, Wholesalers, Retailers and Distributors

Pursuant to the provisions of the Law, particularly on Chapter 3, Section(30) which states that "Accordingly, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act and every December 31st thereafter, every manufacturer, importer, trader, distributor, wholesaler and retailer of drugs and medicines whether included in or excluded from the list of drugs and medicines that are subject to price regulation shall furnish the Secretary of Health a list, containing on the minimum the corresponding prices and inventory of all drugs and medicines it manufactures, imports, trades, distributes, wholesales or retails data pertaining to the factors enumerated under Section 19 (A) (2), and any and all necessary information that the Secretary of Health may require".

This is to reiterate the request stated in our previous letter sent to the individual manufacturers, importers, traders, distributors, wholesaler and retailer of drugs and medicines to submit their price and inventory of all products covered in the Act.

Please send said data re: drug prices and inventories to mpmsc@yahoo.com or fax to (632) 743-3001 loc. 1101.

Deadline of submission will be on or before September 11, 2008.

National Drug Policy Pharmaceutical Management Unit (NDP-PMU)
Department of Health

TO-DOH KALUSUGAN!

Correction

IN THE SEPT. 1 ISSUE, a Business article on Page B1—"Metrobank to offer P18-B high-yield deposit products"—reminded that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Monetary Board approved Metrobank's plan to offer up to P18 billion worth of long-term negotiable certificates of deposits (LTNCDs). The bank plans to offer up to P18 billion worth of tier 2 or supplementary capital ... are LTNCDs.

The Daily Gospel

Tuesday, September 2, 2008
22nd Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 Cor 2: 10-16
Gospel: Lk 4:31-37

Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee, and began teaching the people on the sabbath meetings. They were astonished at the way he taught them, for his word was spoken with authority.

In the synagogue there was a man possessed by an evil spirit who shouted in a loud voice, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I recognize you, you are the Holy One of God." Then Jesus said to him sharply, "Be silent and leave this man!" The evil spirit threw down the man down in front of them and came out of him without doing him harm.

Amazement seized all their people and they said to one another, "What does this mean? He commands the evil spirits with authority and power. Do others, and yet, see how they come out!" And news about Jesus spread throughout the surrounding area.

Commentary

Capernaum was a city built near the Sea of Galilee along trade route that ran south and Jesus by synchronic and northern plus various countries. On a daily basis they would have been a symphony of languages and a colorful mosaic of cultures and dress from foreign lands.

What a perfect setting for Jesus to preach the message of hope to the oppressed. Because of his power to change lives the evil spirits would rail against the Lord Jesus and the message, yet conquered with his divine power is terribly insignificant. Nothing can stop the spread of the Gospel when it is empowered.

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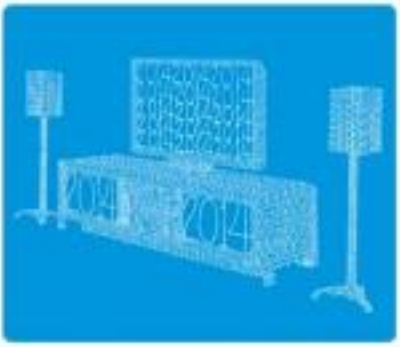

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CHR: Arrest of newsmen illegal

From page A1

front no to the legal basis for such acts and other nothing but arbitrariness, whim and desire on the part of the arresting officers."

Arrests without basis

In its formal complaint to the CHR, the National Press Club (NPC) accused the police of handcuffing about 30 media people with plastic cuffs before detaining them at the police camp-in-exile, Tagaig City.

Two bonsan journalists covering the crisis were among those brought to the camp.

The incident came after a six-hour standoff at the Peninsula Manila hotel that ended with the arrest of Magdalo leader Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and his dissident group.

It was believed to be the biggest mass crackdown on media members since the martial law regime of ferdinand Marcos.

CHR Chair Leila de Lima said in a press conference that "there had been no attempts to prevent, detaining and the prosecuting of members of the media."

While De Lima were merely appointed Commissioners Cecilia Rachel Quisumbing, Ma. Victoria Corcino and Norberto dela Cruz.

Reminder to media

But the CHR also had a word of reminder for media members, saying they were not "completely free of their own responsibilities" and that "for every freedom, there is a corresponding responsibility."

The CHR said the media should take extensive proper conduct and public safety rules on the job.

"The fact that there were already police forces and barricades set around the perimeter of the ... hotel should have instructed the media of the seriousness of the situation and made them aware and do their coverage at a safer place," the CHR said.

The NPC filed formal complaints against Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomon Jr. and Metro Manila Police Director Geary Barias for alleged-ly compromising press freedom and committing human rights violations against the journalists as individuals.

The journalists were released immediately after being subjected to questioning and proper identification at Camp Bagong Diwa.

Police officials had argued that the arrests were a standard operating procedure to make sure that those detained were not rebels disguising as reporters.

Conflicting accounts

The CHR cited "conflicting" police accounts of why the media people were detained.

"If the police officers were not sure as to why they were conducting the arrests, they should have not done so," the CHR said.

It added: "The media, and the public in general, must be spared from such unlawful and capricious interference upon their right to liberty and invariable of person."

The CHR reiterated from making any pronouncements on the alleged violations and disobedience on a person of authority on the part of the journalists.

But it pointed out that if the

CHR Chair Leila de Lima

mass crackdown were a valid issuance of a warrant-less arrest, the authorities still failed to inform the media of the nature and cause for their arrest.

"The members of the media were kept in ignorance as to whether they were brought there as witnesses or as suspects. They were not accompanied by any lawyer of their own, choice nor supplied with one," it stated.

Respect for human rights

There was also no proof that the media showed violence or attempted to escape the police, which could have justified their arrest, according to the CHR.

It also pointed out that the journalists were predominantly young doing their jobs.

"They were without weapons and the exercise applied to them does not pass the tests of reasonableness, necessity and proportionality," it added.

"While we believe that the media must and warned had their own faults in the conduct of their coverage at the ... dispute, this is not an excuse for the to-spreadsers to take for granted the calls of human rights, which must be observed at all times and in all places," the CHR said.

But it also pointed out that while "free rule of the media in a free society cannot be overemphasized," respect for the police and the military and of their roles to protect civilians and the state was essential.

"The Commission firmly believes that law enforcements officers and the media can peacefully co-exist in our society. There need not be a battle of wits nor a challenge for supremacy."

The CHR asked the Department of Interior and Local Government and the PNP conduct an internal inquiry and file possible administrative cases against those liable.

It asked Justice department to further investigate the incident and file proper cases on violations of the Revised Penal Code against police officials.

Gray areas unresolved

The NPC, represented by its newly-elected president, Benny Antipuesto, found the ruling reassuring and "half-baked."

"The CHR left gray areas in the resolution. It should have come up with a stronger, unequivocal recommendation like prescribing that criminal cases be filed before the Ombudsman or the DOJ," Antipuesto told reporters.

But he added that the CHR findings would strengthen the case filed with the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) had filed in the Court of Appeals.

NUJP president Joe Torres said the CHR findings would support the journalists' case against the police officials.

"We will also appeal the decision of the Makati Regional Trial Court that found no basis to our complaint of illegal arrest," Torres said.

Sing no sad songs for Mang Pandoy who died as he lived, still a poor man

From page A1

couple of the long-suffering ordinary Filipinos during a televised debate among the presidential candidates.

Mang Pandoy, a father of eight children, became known to the public as "the face of the poor" after their President Fidel V. Ramos presented him in his first State of the Nation Address (Sona) in 1992, promising him and other poor Filipinos a better life.

A servant of whim and blue paper between address Mang Pandoy's edible waffles.

The date of his interment has yet to be set because his loved ones were uncertain whether they could come up with P14,300 for his burial.

His cadaver occupied much of the space outside his house where there are of cumbrous tables and chairs around a blue list of mourners.

"It is a problem when it came because his coffin gets wet," said Shiela Angelina "Lea Lea" Nalzaro Mendoza, Mang Pandoy's 38-year-old daughter. Relatives embarrassed that her father's coffin would rot if it inside the house.

TV show

There was an issue of the Mang Pandoy, who in 1992 was made a model of "courage and dedication to improve life," except for a Funeral contingent advertisement of his previous television show "Ang Pandoyan ni Mang Pandoy."

Aired over People's Television Network 4 (now the National Broadcasting Network-4), the show was canceled three years after it ran due to low viewership.

Lea-Lea recalled that the last job her father held was as a consultant at the House of Representatives and a TV program host.

"For three years after he appeared at the 1992 Sona that was the last job he was screened just like that," she told the Inquirer.

"He was told not to report for work as the House of Representatives anymore. They could do that because he had not signed any

MANG PANDOY during the glory days when he was the toast of Philippine politicians stands to acknowledge the cheers during the State of the Nation Address of President Fidel Ramos in 1992 at the House of Representatives where he was a special guest.

thing then," she said.

Lea-Lea pointed out that her father was not able to hold any other job after that. "He was old and moldy-and he was not able to study because Grade 3. Nobody would hire him," she said.

Lea-Lea said the family lived by cash donations but there was nothing long-term. "If we were ever given money for livelihood, we would not be living like this," she said.

She said the family was not given anything by the politicians who introduced "Mang Pandoy" to the public as a symbol of veracity.

Mang Pandoy later evolved to become a symbol of token relief from politicians.

Asked about her father's illness, Lea-Lea said that Mang Pandoy had receiving information from his previous job as a gardener on a property of Commonwealth Avenue across from the Iglesia ni Cristo central church.

"He was always exposed to fertilizer and other chemicals," she said.

Kids didn't finish school

Some of Mang Pandoy's seven children by his second wife Flora—Lea-Lea; Dondon, 28; Ofelia, 25; Fernando, 21; Jocelyn, 18; Shido Nillo; and Felipe Jr. nine—finished school although they were given scholarship grants.

Lea-Lea said she received a scholarship to study physical therapy at a school in Daang Hari but was not able to continue because even with the free education, she had nothing to spend for her daily transport fare and allowance. Her other siblings have the same story.

Mother sick

After her father lost his job and returned to gardening, Lea-Lea and her older half-sister, Donna Mata, helped out. Her mother Flora is a plain housewife, who is bedrid ill and when they cannot afford to take to a doctor.

Lea-Lea said that when Mang Pandoy became too weak to move late last year, she decided to take him to a health center in Bagong Pagasa where he was diagnosed with TB. Help from the Department of Social Welfare and Development consisted of advice that he had to be confined and treated in a hospital, she said.

"But how could we afford to have him hospitalized? We did not have any money?" she said.

Lea-Lea said the family did not want to approach politicians because, "he (Mang Pandoy) did not want anything to do with them anymore."

"All he told us when he could hardly move was for us to approach his family (David) and ask for help," she said.

No condolences

David first met Mang Pandoy in 1997 when he bought vegetables from the latter's stand.

Asked if any politicians had sent his or her condolences to the family, Lea-Lea said no one had. She said the family would not mind receiving help from the people but father had distanced himself from.

"We do not have money to burn him. We are not sure if we can raise enough to pay for that. We would welcome any help from them (politicians)," she said.

Appeal for decent burial

In an interview over dzRH, Jaworski appealed for help to give his father a decent burial.

She said that her father's life hardly changed even after receiving media attention at the start of the Ramos administration.

Yesterday, Ramos and his wife, Amelita, extended their condolences to the family of Mang Pandoy.

In his letter to the Nalzaro family, the Ramoses said they were praying for the peaceful repose of his soul. With a report from *Cynthia D. Rabena*

WHAT WENT BEFORE

Product of politics

MANG PANDOY WAS THRUST INTO THE limelight during a televised debate among candidates of the 1992 presidential election, where he was presented by host Family David as an example of the long-suffering ordinary Filipino.

David met Mang Pandoy in 1991, when he started buying vegetables grown by Mang Pandoy on a patch of land on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

Fidel V. Ramos won the presidency and invited the Nalzaros family to his inauguration as "proof of Dad's resolve to ensure the families of the country the "bounties of life."

Ramos instructed then Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. to take care of Mang Pandoy. The peddler received a P100,000 loan to start a business, but failed to make the money grow.

In 1993, the government-run People's Television Network 4 (now the newly-born called "Ang Pandayan ni Mang Pandoy," which melded issues concerning the poor. He got P1,000 per episode until the show was axed in 1995 because it was not pulling in revenue.

Government station Radyo ng Bayan hired Mang Pandoy as a resource person for a weekly program and gave him P250 per appearance, but the program was also axed in 1998.

When he was the House Speaker, Jose de Venecia Jr. hired Mang Pandoy as consultant on urban poor concerns for a salary of P6,000 a month. But Mang Pandoy said he was not consulted by the politicians.

The National Housing Authority awarded Mang Pandoy a 60-square meter lot in Caloocan City, but it is a great distance from work. De Venecia gave him P8,000 to start the construction of his own house, but Mang Pandoy used the money for other purposes. He also sold the lot for P15,000, which he used to build a three-by-five-meter shanty in Quezon City.

There he lived with his wife Flora and children Maria Angelina, Dondon, Ofelia, Fernando, Pastor Nillo and Felipe Jr., who was born in 2000.

The couple grew up their fifth child Jocelyn to friends because of extreme poverty. Mang Pandoy also had a daughter with his first wife.

When the Inquirer visited Mang Pandoy in December 2000, he had stopped working as a peddler for three months because of a lung ailment. During the family's visit, he received an gastrointestinal clubs and the younger mainstays of Ofelia, who worked as a housemaid.

Hanging from the ceiling, above the corner where Mang Pandoy slept, was a looped wire. Mang Pandoy said: "I really have thought of taking my own life a number of times. I have become useless to my family and to the world."

Cyrell L. Bonalbonan, Inquirer Research

There are limits to charity, says Randy David

From page A1

opportunity" is improved.

He said there was a tendency to ignore the structure and just focus on personal charity.

Mang Pandoy, David said, was a victim of "turnover" of the Ramos administration but he was given a regular income after he was appointed consultant on the poor and given a regular consulting time in a television program.

The government, he said, should take care of Mang Pandoy but "there are limits to charity."

Mang Pandoy was also given livelihood projects, including a hog raising package, and scholarship grants for his children but they all failed.

"He had ended up requesting the government to help him all the time. But help was not always there," David pointed out.

He said the moment assistance stopped, Mang Pandoy and members of his family were less.

"I feel very bad about it but what can we do?" David said, explaining that in improving the structures of opportunity, the government must "demand" of just one family must be targeted for investment and not doles.

David recalled that he first met Mang Pandoy in 1991 when he was selling vegetables to members of the faculty at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

"I was so impressed by his industry. He was always smiling. He was never oppressed by poverty," David said, adding that it was the reason that he invited Mang Pandoy to be a guest on his public affairs program on Channel 31.

The witty and engaging Mang Pandoy dazzled his every day "banter" for something the public. "Everybody was impressed by his practicality. Despite his poverty, he never lost hope," the columnist said.

But several months after the program, David learned that Mang Pandoy was ill from an allergic reaction to pesticides and fertilizer and he could no longer raise vegetables to feed his family.

He helped Mang Pandoy in how he could.

In 1992, David interviewed Mang Pandoy as a case study of poverty because he wanted the politicos to be the central issue in the presidential debate.

"He (Mang Pandoy) was genuinely already due to his inability to feed his family," David said, pointing out that the extent of his depression reached the point where Mang Pandoy offered to get himself killed if his family would be paid P100,000 for his life.

"That interview with him was aired. It became the focus of the presidential debate. Everybody forgot what the presidential candidates said and all offered help allowing Mang Pandoy's family," David said.

Face of poverty

"Mang Pandoy gave Filipino poverty a face. Many were made aware of the seriousness of poverty. The appearances was the only way to make the poor understand," David said. Life eased up for the Nalzaro family then.

In the succeeding years, Mang Pandoy and his family were few Year's Day guests as the David home until five years ago when they stopped coming.

"I thought he had gone off to live in the province. I never knew he was still in Metro Manila. It is only now that I found out," David said.

Although the Nalzaro children know his neighbors families and where he lived, they never made any attempt to reach him, he said.

Nevertheless, David said nobody should be blamed for what happened to Mang Pandoy. "He cannot even blame Mang Pandoy because he was a victim of the dysfunctional structure."

Jeanette I. Andrade

1 killed in Petron refinery gas leak

LIMAY, BATAAN — A gas leak at the Petron Corp. refinery here left an engineer dead and another in critical condition, police reported yesterday.

Police said Auditor Ay-Ay Bolano, 24, an industrial engineer, died while being taken to the St. Joseph Hospital in Balanga City after he inhaled hydrogen sulfide, a highly toxic substance at gas production at the oil refinery's cogeneration facility.

Senior Supt. Manuel Gordon, Bataan police chief, said Nicolo Balanza, 24, a chemical engineer, remained in critical condition at the same hospital.

Gordon said a plant technician found the two lying unconscious on the pavement near the facility at 4:30 a.m.

He said investigators could not say if the two men died separately or at the same time.

The police went to the scene a few hours after the two engineers were taken to the hospital.

Gordon, quoting Fernando Fenguerra, Bataan Military Complex administrative manager, said the incident was caused by a "near substance released by the limestone facility."

In a statement, Petron Corp. said it suspended Bryan and Balanza "were supposed to hydrogen sulfide while drawing a collecting chute at the facility to address its high liquid level condition."

But Virginia Fuentes, Petron public affairs manager, said the company had yet to confirm this.

She said Balanza's condition was "critical, but stable." (Reg. Alipranon and Jenette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon; Abigail L. De

2008 Palanca award winners announced

THE WINNERS OF THIS YEAR'S PALANCA awards, the country's top literary prize, were announced yesterday.

Seventeen writers in Filipino, English and other major Philippine languages took home top prizes in 20 categories.

The two Grand Prize winners were Rotsman Wilamarie for his Tagalog novel "Gardya" and Filipino Pajaro for his English novel "Elsewhere."

The following are this year's winners:

Filipino Division. Maikling Kuwento – 1st, Maria Lucille Rosas, "Grime Store"; 2nd, Lowani E. Gorellano, "Isuplot Kalaking," and 3rd, Reinerio D. Rodriguez, "Babaylanes."

Maikling Kuwentong Pambata – 1st, No winner; 2nd, Apol Cecile B. Icasiano, "El Reading ng mga Bayawak," and 3rd, Alfaro Alfredo D. Dimzon, "Mary Tatlong Kaibigan."

Sanaysay – 1st, Ang Pagpatlon-Pilapilen, "Ang Pagbabalik ng Prinsesa ng Sinaunang," 2nd, Ildefonso M. Gonda, "Ang Maliliit Singaw at Akoy ng Bagyong at Pag-ibig," and 3rd, Eugene F. Romero, "Pgara Inday!"

Kabataan Sanaysay – 1st, No winner; 2nd, No winner; 3rd, Albert D. Nuestro, "Ning Himnig ni Ate."

Tula; Dulang May Isang Yugto

Tula – 1st, Mikael de Lara Co, "Ang Bisa Isang Pigalan ng Hangin," 2nd, Renato L. Santos, "Sisi-ong Salagbat, (At gwalbas-ay-Lasalangan)," and 3rd, Mike Anthony Rovic, "Bakit ba" mga tahimik sila si pagkabatang."

Dulang May Isang Yugto – 1st, Fley C. Quintos, "Ang Kolonyalismo ng mga Beyens," 2nd, Bobbie Ann Tan, "Sewelrong Lolos-dres," and 3rd, Allen B. Lopez, "Manggagang Elevator dito"

Dulang Pampelikula – 1st, Emmanuel S. dela Ia Cruz/Rholdan Santamaria, 1434-016, "The Sengalong Singha," 2nd, Bayan Ekumenjan, "Jes," and 3rd, Alfred Aloysius Adlawan, "Hulyak."

Dulang Ganap-ang Haba – No winners.

Regional Division. Maikling Kuwento: Cebuano – 1st, Rhenato D. Tiu, "Dance," 2nd, Edgar E. Godin, "Bingo," and 3rd, Lilit Tio, "Alejandro."

Maikling Kuwento: Hilgaynon – 1st, Leonelo D'Orenda, "Ang Pagbalik sang Bulalitao" 2nd, Alfer Tan Gonzales, "Tawnon, Anak," and 3rd, Elmer Galilaea, "Bino."

English division

Maikling Kuwento: Baku – 1st, Benilo Santos, "Tsangkoloy," 2nd, Abdul Taliaga, "Hungerno" and 3rd, Aurelio Agustin, "Magnolia Lhuillier."

English Division: Short Story – 1st, Ian Fernando Perealez Casanor, "Things You Don't Know," 2nd, Tara PT Sering, "Good People," and 3rd, Michael L. Isarcol, "Right Seconds"

Short Story for Children – 1st, Celestine Marie C. Trinidad, "The Storyteller and the Ghost," 2nd, No winner, and 3rd, Kathleen Anne Flores, "The Mapmaker and the Dream Town"

Essay – 1st, Jose Claudio B. Guerrero, "Talking to a Six Dragon's Wedding Afternoon," 2nd, Kristen Stuart Santiago, "Silhouette," and 3rd, Bronwen Lynn Uson, "Happy Comes."

Kabataan Essay – 1st, Miss Frances Bernadette Cupdi, "Rented X," 2nd, Christian Gomez F. Tantingco, "Things that Go Beyond the Postcards," and 3rd, Ellenrose Mendoza-Mendoza, "The Words and Dreams that Rhymedes."

Poetry – 1st, Francis C. Macapagal-an, "Metaphoric Sentences;"

2nd, Aiza Maria Icaligtad, "Metaphor," and 3rd, Merle Lo Villa, "The Gospel according to Red Blood Man."

One-Act Play – 1st, Maria Charlene H. Gozum, "Sampaguita's Revolution;" 2nd, Percival Intalan, "Secret Identities," and 3rd, Joachim Emilio B. Acosta-in, "Newspaper Dance."

Full-Length Play – 1st, Peter Solis Nery, 2nd, No winner; 3rd, No winner.

HUSBAND and wife Priscilla and Hardman Abreo of India, both doctors, won this year's Ramon Magsaysay award for Community Leadership. INQUIRER

Davao bus blast kills 6

From page A1

terrorist-and-terrorist ring Jemaah Islamiyah.

"They placed the bomb overhead and pushed it with sufficient force to cause more casualties," said Supt. Francisco Mitra Jr., regional police information officer.

Bilkisnon said Al-Khobar had demanded P500,000 plus a P50,000 monthly payment from the bus company in July. When the owner refused, the extortionists bombed a bus in Digos on July 23, killing one person and wounding 32 others, he said. The police said in that attack was similar to one detonated yesterday, Villarosa said.

Only three of the six fatalities in Monday's bombing have been identified—Muslim Dayo, between 30–40 years old and a resident of Sitio Sharifa, Davao del Sur; Wella Tamores and Alpalata Dicaro.

Among the wounded were a girl believed to be 2 years old and a pregnant woman. Many of them in critical condition were rushed to the government-run Davao Medical Center in Davao City.

The commercial district has been famed for Shabu, Davao del Sur. It had just arrived from Davao City and was waiting for passengers when the explosion occurred.

Bernardino said investigators were still trying to determine the bomb's components. "It was remotely detonated through a mobile phone," he said.

Jay Dayoan, reporter for the Philippine Daily Inquirer, was on the bus at the time of the blast.

A witness said blood smoke billowed from the vehicle after the blast as passengers tried to escape from the rampage. "People ran frantically as they fled from the terminal," said the witness, who declined to give his name.

Buses immediately shut down, and authorities ordered all the vans.

Guns silent

Military officials said there was no significant activity in the jungle operations against Ameril Umbra Kato and Abdullah Macapaar, field commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) who had been blamed for a series of deadly attacks in North Cotabato, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur in recent weeks.

Some 50 civilians and 17 soldiers and rebels have been reported killed in the fighting, sparked by the declaration of the Aug. 5 signing of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the MILF to an expanded Bangsamoro homeland.

The military said 120 MILF followers of Kato and Macapaar, also Commander Bravo, had been killed in the government counteroffensive, but the MILF confirmed only seven dead.

Gen. Alexander Yano, chief of staff of the disbanded Forces of the Philippines, reported that the guns fell silent in Mindanao on the first day of the window, but he said he was not discounting the possibility of terrorist attacks.

"There are moderate-war groups that have always been identified (as) groups that bring sanctuaries to local and foreign terrorists in the area so that is a possibility that we are not discounting and we are taking that consideration and are alert and cautious," Yano told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

Yano reiterated that the military's punitive actions against Kato and Bravo-pan would continue throughout Ramadan but that ground commanders had been authorized to "adjust" tactics in deference to fasting Muslims.

The military has put up a P1-billion reward for Kato and Bravo-pan, who reportedly lead 500-1,000 fighters of the 11,000-strong MILF.

Renegade groups

Brig. Gen. Jorge Segovia, spokesperson for the Central Mindanao conflict, told reporters that the MILF fighters being pursued by the military had splintered into smaller groups.

"We need to engage groups by the hundreds. Since the groups are down to 10, 20, or 30 individuals and they have moved in areas with less probability of engagement. It's also for their self-preservation," Segovia said.

Also pursuing the MILF renegade-led military affairs, Abenir Abdil Aziz Mimbantas, warned the government of a total collapse of the ceasefire agreement if the military occupied a southern village of the peace panel's Bong, Lanao del Sur, Mimbantas holds office in that area.

Mimbantas said the office, where the foreign-funded Bangsamoro Development Agency also maintained a bureau, had been surrounded by government troops. PCIJ reporters from Sikka Ojeas in Manila and Princess Lim, Edwin O. Fernandez, Avelino Rotoras, Charlie G. Sebastian, Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Inquirer Mindanao

MUSLIM leaders in Maharlika, Taguig say prayers to mark the start of Ramadan on Monday. AP

Muslims pray for peace in holy month of Ramadan

From page A1

"We are one with this development, which does not like to see violence among people whether they are Muslim or Christian. There is why we are working for the interventions."

The archbishop of Manila, Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, in a statement yesterday expressed hope that the killing of unarmed civilians by armed groups to influence court rulings is "series of murders by evangelical group from treasured victims' clans."

Fraternity for peace

Rosales, a former bishop of Bukidnon, called on Catholic bishops and Muslim ulamas and imams to pray for universal fraternity and peace in region.

"Through the clamor, we ask the imams to lead our Muslim brothers and sisters and their communities in prayers for common fraternity and for pursuit of peace, so as to ask our Christian brothers and sisters to pray for the same aside and peace expected by sharing the sacred observance of Muslim Ramadan and not succumbing to being enticed to a Christian Advent Season," Rosales said.

In a separate letter to Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, Rosales said he and the Catholic community in Manila had been wounded by the ongoing conflict. "Our experience of violence in the past Cotabato I cannot have any reason to be repeated," he said.

Spare civilians

Disappointed that the government did not heed its call for a temporary truce with MILF rebels in time for Ramadan, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) appealed to the military to spare civilians in its continued operations.

"Further to and thus point to go armed with the offensive, we ask them to deeply carry out their operations to the rogue elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which means to Commander Kato and Bravo," CHR Chair Leila de Lima told a press conference yesterday.

De Lima was referring to MILF leaders Ameril Omabra Kato and Abdulla Macapaar, alias Commander Bravo, whose the military now is pursuing.

"You had cease-fire for a temporary cessation was not heard by both sides ... but we are willing to do more to carry out their operations to reach a way that civilian casualties and displacement are avoided," she said.

The CHR earlier expressed concern over the ongoing military operations against the MILF, saying that the killings of at least 20 civilians have not been reported.

No opposition stand

De Lima urged the government to desist from its plan to arm civilian groups in it would only place the latter outside the jurisdiction of international humanitarian law that protected civilians from violations operated by armed conflicts.

"By being armed, they effectively become combatants which are not protected by the law," De Lima explained.

Adel Tamano, spokesperson of the United Opposition, said that UNO did not favor a counterinsurgency strategy that would involve civilians during the operations. Tamano former President Joseph Estrada was pushing for an all-out war against the MILF but he said that as a Muslim, he was calling for a truce during the fasting month.

He said the government should show sensitivity in the plight of some 150,000-200,000 displaced people, mostly women and children, who should be allowed to return home as soon as possible. With reports by Jerome Aning, Jaime B. Oji, Alison B. Lopez and Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

FILIPINO Muslims and Christians release white doves as they call for peace during the celebrations of the National Peace Consciousness month in Manila on Monday. AP

Greatness of spirit runs in this family from India

From page A1

could have chosen a life of ease and plenty. But with his young bride Shraddaben by his side, he followed a disturbing path raised to value blissful music had chosen.

Sense of mission

His sense of mission led him to the remote jungles of Bondoc, today in eastern Mindoro, to meet to a people who he known as the Mabilo Gonds.

When the couple arrived there 24 years ago, literacy among the Mabilo Gonds was zero and their contact with the outside world was limited. There were no social services and little government presence in the 150 square miles of dense forest that sheltered the tribe.

The tribesmen coexisted with wild animals and survived by hunting, gathering, and shifting cultivation, but they were considered a people hopeless by outsiders. They had no written language, their children refused to learn the Hindi, India's national language, nor in Marathi, which is spoken in Maharashtra.

But what exactly drew Prakash to the place? He was doing post-graduate studies in surgery in Nagpur when he volunteered to run Dr Baba Amte's new project among the Mabilo Gonds. This was a turning point for him, and Prakash knew it was also a homecoming of sorts.

Prakash told his three girlfriend Shraddhaben about the plans. Would she come with him to work in the jungle? Shraddhaben, a classical dancer from Prakash popped the question. "Wasn't he cold, it would be shy," recalls the former beauty queen-turned-doctor. She said yes, she will go with him.

Leap of faith

In 1974, Prakash and Shraddhaben made a leap in the dark, a leap of faith, and left their medical practice in the city to settle in Bondoc.

And once there, they had to start from scratch. There were no common medicines to speak of. They lived in a shoebox but that offered no privacy. During the cold season they warmed their selves by the fireside. "We maintained our sanity," Prakash says.

Icky and suspicious of outsiders, the Mabilo Gonds did not open up to the heroes who came to "Where we arrived we right away felt the cultural barrier," Shraddhaben says.

There were problems of malnutrition, blind faith in faith healers and even in the practice of sending a human sacrifice. Food poisoning claimed lives through "accompaniment," or death-and-feast.

Prakash and Shraddhaben began their mission by setting up shop by the roadside. They learned the local dialect. Prakash shed the doctor's mantle and relate easily and convincingly to the people as an elder brother.

Little by little the couple earned the people's trust. They started to vaccinate a badly burned epileptic boy and a man dying of tetanus infection. The "miracle cures" resulted in more patients coming.

Against abuse

In 1975, the development agency Swimedal gave funds for the construction of a small hospital in Bondoc, on a land donated by government. "We did something unique," Prakash recalls with delight. "Called no operations, fractures, gynecological problems, bone tubes. For 30 years we didn't have a break."

But health and nutrition were not the only problems. The doctors discovered later the Mabilo Gonds could also be vulnerable to exploitation by corrupt forest officers and other outsiders. Hence, the couple had to intervene and mediate in the tribe's disputes with abusive government officials.

In 1976, a school was built on the same land donated for the hospital. At first the people were reluctant to send their children to school, for it did not take long for them to get convinced.

The couple eventually raised their two sons in Hemalkasa and sent them to the same school with Mabilo Gond couples. Just like how it was when Prakash was growing up with the children of his father's leprosy patients.

The school did not just offer the basics but also provided training in organic farming. The people were taught how to conserve forest resources, including undergrowth from the bare they let hunted to restoration. An animal orphanage was set up to stress the importance of wildlife in the balance of nature.

Electricity finally came to the Mabilo Gonds in 1995.

Alumni back to serve

Today, the hospital has a 50-bed capacity and treats more than 40,000 patients yearly, free of charge. It also serves as a regional center for mother-child welfare and health education for "barefoot" volunteer doctors spread out to outlying villages.

The school, meanwhile, enrolls around 600 students, and some of its earliest students have become doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyer and contractors.

Prakash reports that the school now counts "five doctors" among its alumni and that all five, along with 90 percent of the graduates, "have come back to serve in the community."

Two of these young doctors are his own son Rajani and daughter.

Rajani and his wife Anagha, another doctor, have an adopted daughter named Avani, while the Gond reborn mother died in childbirth. Anuja is now seven.

Legacy

Man in their 60s, Prakash and Mandakini also have a grandson, whose pictures they proudly carry around in an album. Some of the photos show a wide-eyed boy frolicking among leopards, bears and snakes in the animal orphanage.

"Maybe it's just the way we have led our lives," Prakash says, summing up their sense of compassion and the legacy they are leaving behind.

Their 34-year-old endeavor for the uplift of the Mabilo Gonds has since been known as Lok Biradari Prakalp (Peoples Brotherhood Project) or LBP, a name given by Baba Amte.

With help from Swimedal, Oxfam and a Canadian development agency, LBP has forged on, although money and trained medical help are always in short supply. The couple's only crutch during their years with the "little" will surely go a long way.

(The Amte couple are not the only twenty-generation RM awardees. Jan Dagpahan-an of Bontoc, the 2000 RM awardee for Government Service, is the son of 1965 awardee for Public Service Peter Dagpahan.)

Senate given say in drafting new peace pact

Front page 4 ▸

President Arroyo accepts that since the Senate has to concur with her ratifiers, the Senate should play an active role in treaty negotiations, at least with respect to constitutional and ethics issues, Santiago said.

The chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations said that during the meeting in Malacañang on Friday, Ms Arroyo reiterated that the deal with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) would not be signed under her term.

US practice

Santiago noted that it had been a long-standing practice in the United States to invite members of the Senate foreign relations committee to join the negotiating panel.

"Senators can anticipate what problems the treaty might raise to the Senate and thus avoid verbal booby traps," she said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan concurred with Santiago. "They (negotiators) should bring in the Senate from time to time and give us updates but we do not necessarily have to have a representative on the panel," he said.

Sen. Mar Roxas said that while the President had abandoned the MOA, it was still important that the Supreme Court formally declare the deal unconstitutional and illegal because it could still be used by the MILF as the starting point for any new agreement.

The high court issued a temporary restraining order on the signing of the MOA on Aug. 5 after local officials in Mindanao protested, saying they were not consulted and the provisions went beyond the ancestry and territory issue.

Not a be-all, end-all process

Sen. Joker Arroyo insisted that the court should allow the government to act on political aspects of the MOA as judicial action was not the "be all and end all of the resolution of the conflict."

Santiago maintained that even if the MOA was characterized as a political question, "the Supreme Court would still have the power to acquire jurisdiction, if it can be shown that there was grave abuse of discretion on the part of executive officials."

Several senators called not only for a revamp of the negotiating team but also to keep call Datus for sign observers such as the United States and Malaysia.

Pangilinan said: "We should review that and see if that is for the best interest to have that."

Not an honest broker

Sen. Richard Gordon conceded that there was a problem in having international participants in the peace talks.

"There is a perception that Malaysia is not an honest broker and in the interest of better relations Malaysia should not be a part of it," Gordon said.

Tiya Dely: First Lady . . .

Front page 4 ▸

p.m., Tiya Dely, or Hilda Mercedes Maggaya in real life, passed away—after suffering a stroke on Saturday night, her doctor Ronnie Sancio told the tearful.

Penny-till the end, Tiya Dely was watching on the radio broadcast of ABS-CBN when she had the stroke on Saturday at 11:30 p.m., while hosting the program "Serenata Kalatkilatan" which features one of her many longtime passions, broadcasting and radio talk music.

Nenog Pinagsawi, a coworker for the past 13 years, recalled that Tiya Dely suddenly "fell weak" the night she was rushed to the hospital.

That was unusual because Tiya Dely had always been active and sprightly.

Full schedule

Even in her 80s, she maintained a full schedule at the radio station, hosting a nightly show "Nag-Iisang Tiya Dely" apart from the weekend programs.

"Tiya Dely herself told the Inquirer in a 2008 interview that she had no plans of slowing down: "This is not work to me. I love what I'm doing," she said.

Tiya Dely had been doing what she loved best for over six decades, beginning in the pre-war era as a singer in radio and stage shows.

She recalled then that from radio star to the family was older sister Lutz, who worked with broadcasting legends Lina Flor, Eric Trinidad, Rafael Ortiga and Pambo Gonzaga.

"I used to sing along with my sis Lutz to the radio station," she reminisced.

She first met the late sing on radio, a man in whom she fell in love with Tiya Dely, worked with Rafael Ortiga and National Artist Eva Tolentino Aung-de la Rama.

Comic troupe

At 18, she joined the comic troupe of Andoy Balmaceda, partner of Dely Atayan-yan, on KBS.

During World War II, she hosted both, the combined wedding. "The Japanese called both and instructed PBAS (discussing their work in their shows). But I only performed Tagalog songs because most of my fans were members of the guerilla movement."

After the war, she also moonlighted as leading lady of the Manila Grand Opera House, sharing the stage with luminaries like Angel Esmeralda, Diego and Pagsanghan.

At the same time, the Pampanga native graduate also worked as confidential secretary to then Department of Foreign Affairs chief and future President Diosdado Quirino. "I made P1,440 a year, or about P120 a month—a big sum in those days!"

Later, she joined ABS-CBN, where she found her true calling as on-air confidante and counselor. On Oct. 5, 1950, the show "Mga Liham kay Tiya Dely" made its debut.

Radio star

Apart from being a radio star, she also waxed records for VD-Int, Mira, Mercury and Banson Records, which was owned by the Mystery Singer, Cori Limjap.

Under the Banson label, she recorded her most memorable hits: "Tina Kung Ang Ang" and "Tinanayan ng Maynila."

Tiya Dely also crossed over to the movies.

"Mga Liham ni Tiya Dely" was turned into a movie by Lucy Quiambao Productions in 1988. She also recorded with her old stage co-star Pugo in "Sobra Mahal Kita."

"I learned a lot about entertaining from Pugo," she said.

In 1957, she joined ABS-CBN's dzXL, where she worked until the declaration of martial law in 1972.

In the 1970s, she anchored shows on Veritas, dzBB and dwBW. She also hosted a TV version of her radio program on Channel 9 in the 1970s.

First voice on the air

In 1986, when ABS-CBN was reopened after the Edsa revolution, it was Tiya Dely's voice that was first heard on air on dzBM.

Four years later, however, Tiya Dely returned to dzBB, her original home.

In a 2008 interview, she said that the title "First Lady of Philippine Radio" made her uneasy. "I don't know why they started calling me that. I hope the others won't feel slighted. Nakakahiya sa iba. It's embarrassing."

In a subsequent interview a year later, when she was given a Lifetime Achievement honor by the Rotary Club of Intramuros, Tiya Dely told the Inquirer: "I think they are giving me the award because I'm the oldest one in the industry. I'm among those who've logged in the most number of years in public service."

Numerous awards

The First Lady of Philippine Radio, who would have turned 88 on Oct. 28, was numerous awards for her work in the broadcast industry—including Pena-As Gintong Bul (Commercial Winners) award from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts; Gawad Plaridel from the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communications; and a lifetime achievement honor from the Bagiuonan ng mga Broadkaster sa Pilipinas.

Throughout her six-decade career, she has wowed records, acted in stage shows and movies, and appeared on TV shows but it was her role as on-air counselor that she was most famous for.

She told the Inquirer in 2005 that she personally read the 20 to 30 letters that she received from fans every day—minutes that sought advice concerning problems both major and minor.

As Tiya Dely makes her final bow, her love-track listeners will surely raise the condoning and, as many were, counsel of the First Lady of Philippine airwaves.

At press time, the family has yet decided on Tiya Dely's interment plans. She is survived by daughter Didi Reyes-Belmonte.

THE PHILIPPINE COUNCILORS LEAGUE

15th Philippine Councilors Week

SEPTEMBER 1-7, 2008

Theme: "PCL: Kalusugan, Kalikasan at Kabuhayan . . . Susi sa Kaunlaran"

HISTORY OF PCL

The idea of organizing a Philippine Councilors Association was first conceived in 1989. It was on July 31, 1989 that the Metro Manila Councilors League (MMCL) and the First Municipal Councilors League Executive Assembly in the Eastern City Quezon City to launch the Metro Manila Councilors League (MMCL). Among the officers who attended the Executive Council of Metro Manila to organize the MMCL were Councilor Ernesto Maceda, MMCL officers, together with the officers of the Regional and Provincial Councilors Leagues organized, held a meeting in Cebu City on August 1989 to launch the Philippine Councilors League (PCL). Among the officers present at that first meeting of the first PCL National Congress. The First PCL Congress was held on September 1-4, 1989 at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Manila. The said Congress established the PCL Constitution by-laws, by-laws and elected the first set of officers. Among the officers elected were Councilor Antonio Montalban, Councilor Ernesto Maceda, Councilor Rolando Valdez, Sulu Municipal Councilors Association, Bulacan Provincial Councilors Association, Davao del Norte Provincial Councilors Association, Davao del Norte Municipal Councilors Association and Davao del Norte City Councilors Association.

The PCL celebrated its official status as a local government association when it was accredited by the Department of Interior and Local Government on September 1, 1990, and subsequently registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 11, 1990.

The PCL, elected another milestone when it became the first alternative leader in the Local Government Code of 1991, recognized the existence of the Federations of Local Councilors Leagues (FLCL) in 1992. In 1993, the Department of the Interior and Local Government issued Memorandum Circular No. 93-102 declaring that the national officers of the PCL shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Code.

In the light of these developments, the PCL National Council was convened by Manuel Chavez, Valenzuela City Chapter and Lucy Lopez, Bulacan Chapter on August 24, 1992 at the Asian Institute of Tourism, Diliman, Quezon City to amend the existing PCL Constitution and by-laws which was accordingly adopted and ratified during the Second National Congress held on October 17 - 18, 1992 at San Andres Sports Complex in Manila, City of Manila.

As a non-government association with a large membership, the PCL continues to evolve as a dynamic and vibrant organization of local legislators. The PCL is dedicated to the business of extraordinary and emerging issues in local administration and development to help improve the quality of life of the Philippine people through effective local legislation.

16,708 municipal and city Councilors, 81 Provincial Federations, 29 City Chapters, 17 Regional Councils, 3 Island Officers, One Filipino Nation

PCL Induction ceremony at Malacañan Palace with the Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo held on August 4, 2008 at Rizal Hall.

Left to right: Councilors Ronald Llamas, Metro Manila President; Atty. Marvin Rivera, Philippine Councilors League (PCL) National President; Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; Richard Gordon, Bataan Governor; Jonas Lee Pacheco, Bataan Provincial Board Member; Atty. Jose Lina Pacheco, Bataan Author and Senator Bayanihan ng Bataan Treasurer

The PCL City Chapter Presidents with Bataan Governor Jonas Lee Pacheco and Bataan Governor Richard Gordon together with Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

The PCL Provincial Federation Presidents, and the PCL Regional Council Chairperson pose with the PCL Chairman and President and Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Activities

September 1, 2008
5:30am Sunday Holy Mass Intramuros
Cathedral by ABS-CBN

10:00am Medical Mission at the PCL Hotel and Center Compound

12:00noon Local Government Training Program Conference (RDC) signing between PCL and University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Foundation, Inc. at the 3rd Flr., PCL Hotel.

There will also be a nationwide set of activities to be held by the different Regional Councils, Provincial Federations, City Chapters and Synagguniang Panlalawigan in the PCL Home

"PCL: Kalusugan, Kalikasan at Kabuhayan . . . Susi sa Kaunlaran".

PCL Objectives:

- To uphold a strategic and accessible forum by: giving the meeting and advocacy in the concept of decentralization and local autonomy;
- undertaking and maximizing ideas of promoting consensus in the PCL; and strengthening public and private sector relations towards local development;
- Bring the government closer to the people and their needs;
- Strengthening the support, cooperation and professional among local legislators;
- To formulate, implement and coordinate programs, projects and activities beneficial to the members of the League and/or the general welfare of the people;
- To promote the development of cooperatives throughout the country to uplift the socio economic condition of the people;
- To set up a foundation for the benefit of the members, their families and constituents;
- To undertake local voting projects and activities to support the PCL's programs and objectives.

VISION:

"PCL is an empowered Federation of governance that serves as catalyst towards progress of people within a sustainable environment for a strong and united Philippines".

INSTITUTIONAL PHILOSOPHY:

The PCL is committed to vigorously pursue its mandate through:

- Observance of the Rule of Law;
- Sharing of resources and experiences beneficial to the members; and
- adherence to the principles of consultation and collective decision-making.

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OPINION

Effective leaders

EDITORIAL

LAST SATURDAY 58 RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDees and 300 community and business leaders of Asia toasted the need for good, effective and credible governance to solve the region's problems. The forum said that while partnership among non-government organizations, the private sector, people's organizations and international and multilateral organizations is needed, development can happen only with "accountable, transparent, ethical and efficient" governance.

But to start with, a nation can have good governance only if it has a leader who is honest, upright and incorruptible, sincere and selfless. An excellent example of this was the late President Ramon Magsaysay after whom the Magsaysay Award, Asia's version of the Nobel Prize, was named. He drew the respect and support of the people in governance because of his honesty and incorruptibility and his genuine concern for the people.

Leaders should be honest. They should not cheat or steal anything, whether it be money, private or public property or billions. They should be honest in their statements: they should be true to their word. They should not use the powers and resources at their command for self-aggrandizement or for retaining a perpetual hold on power. They must be true friends and candid. They should have no hidden agenda.

Leaders have to be upright and incorruptible. They should not say one thing, like, for instance, that they are against corruption, and yet countenance corruption or themselves get involved in graft-ridden and anomalous deals. Presidents can set the example by strictly prohibiting their relatives from taking an interest in government projects and transactions. Magsaysay was able to do this, why can't other presidents do it?

Leaders should be sincere and selfless. They should hold the interests of the people paramount. They are in office to serve the people and not to serve their selfish personal, family or special group interests.

They have to have a special bias for the poor and the disadvantaged. They should remember what Magsaysay said: "Those who have less in life should have more in law." The rich have all the resources they need to promote and protect their interests. The poor need special care and protection. Last week's forum recognized this when it said that there was a need for an effective and credible government supported by "more enlightened and pro-poor policy structures."

Leaders should be accountable to the people. Elective officials, particularly, should always answer to the people for their decisions in the course of governance. Again they should remember what Magsaysay said when making an important decision: "Can we defend this at Plaza Miranda?"

Leaders have to be ethical. A public show of piety or religiosity will dress the news photographers but will not impress the people. Leaders' lives have to be governed by a set of sacred values and principles of conduct. They may be brilliant lawyers, economists or other professionals, but if they are not ethical, they cannot justifiably be considered leaders. Their people will not trust them or follow them.

Many people are losing hope or have lost hope in our country. But our country is not hopeless. We have rich natural resources and an intelligent and talented people. What is needed is a leader who will set the right course for the nation and lead it on the path of progress. A leader who will set the example of honesty, integrity, patriotism, fidelity, accountability, sincerity and selflessness.

Where will we have such a man (or woman) to lead us and lift us out of the pit of despair/misery?

Diverse voices

VIEWPOINT

Jose L. Herrada

JUSTICE UNDERSECRETARY RAMON JESUS has called for media to be more Client days. He mentions the reminders from Bahrain of the suspected Filipino mastermind in the Superferry bombing.

Hernandez also takes dual pass over the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (RA 9208). He is concerned over the fact that the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking. Then, he expresses an viewpoint: colonial "Local Trade." (Inquirer, 8-26-08) This deals with human trafficking, within a locus.

"Thank you for the concern (over) one of the most heinous crimes perpetrated our (fellow Filipinos). We need all the help we can get... Even our own judges and prosecutors are still in the dark in relation to prosecution of persons who traffic (human beings)."

Based on the US 2008 Department report, Vietnamese noted that only three convictions were secured. Allow me to make a slight correction. As of June 30, IACAT, with assistance of different government agencies, secured the conviction of one Ms. Elsie Ogadiano. (This brought the total number of convictions to 11).

"In these 11 convictions, witnesses were vital to sentencing of the perpetrators. Most of the cases (the witness) snowballed or archived mostly do not have witnesses to corroborate the evidence gathered against the perpetrators."

"The international community praised the Philippines for its success in reducing the number of cases involving human rights violations (including the trafficking of women and children). In the recently released 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report by US Department, it says there the Philippines was removed from the Watch List. (The country) was cited by making significant efforts in eliminating trafficking.

"However, government, through IACAT, cannot eliminate human trafficking without finding support. The author department since (IACAT) creation five years ago repeatedly requested the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for financial aid for our programs.

"Three have been denied. We're asked by (DBM) to source out funds for programming the (2008 requests)... A big part of the 2008 re-

quest was (DOJ) achieved was due to the funds provided by the different non-government organizations (NGOs).

"Based on the (national) (sting) IACAT produced (the Manual on Law Enforcement and Prosecution of Trafficking in Persons Cases. (Copies of this) were provided to prosecutors and other law enforcers to facilitate effective investigation and prosecution of trafficking.

"There is still so much to be done. Among these are a massive information campaign and strengthening of different government agencies involved in combating human trafficking."

Sylvia Mejia of the Environmental Science for Social Change commented on Pangasinan witnesses last June 26 and July 17 that have lighted the new book, "Forest Focus." ESSC republished the book with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.

"We deeply appreciate the Viewpoint column. We (also) like (to) express our (views) and (are willing to do so).

"The Viewpoint column (Having since the write) quotes from a logging truck driver in the environment office in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao... This shows (when) the forests devastated and colleagues murdered) is somebody I know. And (also) he published his (views). I was just dumbfounded while listening.

"We (are) become so numb to the numerous illegal logging anecdotes as we go about our

A good fit

FOREIGN COMMENT

GEN-RUAGE AND (LIMITED) TIME ON THE NATIONAL STAGE, Barack Obama needed to pick a running mate who would instantly reassure voters...someone they knew can provide wise counsel and hold steer as president if need be.

Joe Biden is a man perfect. He is 65 and nearing the end of his earth tour in the Senate. He is both a fiercely partisan campaigner and a respected voice in foreign affairs. He has the experience to help Obama on day one, yet not so much later that the campaign is over. —

A Roman Catholic with blue-collar roots in Pennsylvania, Biden is thoroughly at home among the working-class voters who were front and center with Obama during the primaries.

For all that, Democrats will likely see Biden has never lived in Washington. ...he took the train home to Delaware every night and is said to be on a first-name basis with scores of Amtrak employees. That will play well with the voters Obama needs back in the Democratic fold.

Ha Hon Boone (courtesy of Jesuitsnet)

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Time to party

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

CONGRESS IS ALL SET TO MAKE AN INTEResting lull. That lull, authored by Joe de Venecia, proposes to remove political parties for purposes of transaction and allowing accredited parties to choose government subsidies. Joe de Venecia, for the embodies that: "The purpose of that (is) political corruption is to isolate political coverage from and secure parties." The logic being that parties now thus spend their independence instead of being beholden to campaign donors.

Well, the idea of strengthening parties isn't bad at all. In fact, it's an exceptionally good one. It's the key to curing our political woes. I've been saying that for some time now. The problem is not our political system, which can be solved by going parliamentary. The problem is not our Constitution, which can be solved by Charter change. The problem is our party system. We haven't got any.

There can be no debate by having one.

We do not have our political party in a state other countries, particularly the developed ones, will understand: In other countries, parties are organizations that espouse specific ideas common platforms. The people vote into those (ones) to those that most (ideas). Once parties are loose and completely transient affiliations that offer personal gain. The people who join them keep or those only so long as the parties remain good on their offer. In other (countries), the party is bigger than incumbents. Here, the party is smaller than its leaders.

I remember again a couple of conversations that show the depth of meaning parties hold for other peoples. One was with a German official whom I asked: "What if Joschka Fischer joined the Social Democratic Party?" At the time (under) Gen. Hus, Fischer was the German (people's) Foreign Affairs Secretary. And one who would serve because prime minister because his party, the Green Party, was just a small one. The official I asked found my question thoroughly mind-boggling. He answered after a while: "Because if he did, he would no longer be Joschka Fischer."

The other conversation was with a Japanese political officer whom I asked if there (has) ever been a case of any politician switching parties in Japan. He too found my question incomprehensible. He replied after a while: "But if he did that, he would have ceased his political career. He would be rejected by the voters. He would be ostracized by his colleagues." It was a fairly polite way of saying, "He would be committing harakiri."

In that sense, the only real parties in this country are the Communist Party of the Philippines and Bayan Muna. Both accept that the people who join them be bound by the principles they stand for, noncompliance being punishable by death in the first and by gangs of (enforcers) in the second.

Otherwise, our politicians drop parties with the ease of changing their pants. And there their parties are the ones generally found in, both supporting them to go for the highest bidder. One is tempted to say that the reason for it is that politicians are leaving their benefactors rather than to their parties, but even that isn't true. Parties, politicians (to) leave to run for (better) reform and to nothing but their interests. Look at the ease with which Hilarion Ramiro and Juan Ponce Enrile went from professing undying loyalty to Erap to working (cahoots) to (Oust).

The problem is the political party, not the lack of it. Congressman Joe de Venecia argued that given the absence of any real party systems in this country, a parliamentary form of government would be worse than the presidential one. Look at the way the wages in Congress ganged up on the impeachment bids against (GMA), and (to) the Neptali Gonzales bid, and they're ganging up to toss through Charter change. With elected officials changing parties

faster than they change underwear. They can do
same (may) as a (commendably) unpopular gov-
ernment (they're there as such) (GMA) as long
(there's a) (mind) (as that's) (calling) (wind) (to)
(own). (Malacañang) party system, we (have a)
(style) for parliament.

The key is changing the party system, not the form of government to (Charter). But how?

That's the part when Joe De Venecia's bill (rails). The direction is right, the (vehicle is wrong. At the) very least, what's wrong with it is that (he leaves) it (to) (electing) it. Joe de Venecia (the) (changing) (GMA) (constitution during his watch is spurious suggests) the kind of motivations that occupy his brain.

Quite apart from that, as Teddy Casiño points out, the proposal (raises) such corruptions it (adds to) it. It compounds the (opposite) disorder. The (opinion) of parties (the concept) themselves will deliver in assemblies. And it won't stop those parties from soliciting from (cans). You (see) the Miranda (community) (system).

The (all) for limiting (transactions). (It) depends (on) (conditions) (being) (from) one party to another. That is the main (characteristic), by the way, of most of the major political players today, they've run the gamut of political parties. But limiting transactions does (not) do the trick. Some have proposed going back to the two-party system as it (campaigns) for taxpayers to shoulder. The (opinion) of parties (the concept) themselves will deliver in assemblies. And it won't stop those parties from soliciting from (cans). You (see) the Miranda (community) (system).

The (all) for limiting transactions.

Shocker from McCain

DON'T THINK WE CANNOT VOTE IN THE US elections, we Filipinos have kept a keen interest in the on-going campaigns and this has hopped (into) a political party. Thus, Pinoys were among the most shocked when Republican presidential candidate John McCain last weekend chose a small-looking, but little-known governor as the runner-mate of shoo-in his running mate. US pundits instantly termed the selection "rather political gimmickry or an act of desperation" for the aging senator in his battle with the Democratic candidate with the "rock-star" appeal and soaring rhetoric, Barack Obama. Critics termed McCain's move a "bold and reckless gamble," but as the public began to rave a second look at the second-half Gov. Sarah Palin, dubbed the "hottest governor of the coldest state," it began to make sense for some voters. Reports said the picked an initial 10 percent approval rating vs. 90 percent for her elder rival, Democratic hm. Joseph Biden.

* * *

A mother of five, including an 18-year-old preparing to leave for duty in Iraq, the former beauty queen (she had only 23 months of experience in the field of politics) is credited for many as an antidote of her small hometown of about 6,000 inhabitants, Wasilla. Her record includes a 4-month old baby afflicted with Down's syndrome, a controversial pregnancy out of wedlock, a history of intellectual impairment and planned abstinence. Anti-abortionists and other conservative elements in America have gone wild over the disclosure that despite her and her husband's knowledge of the baby's condition, they gave it birth. Palin's baby had this illness, they didn't have it aborted and are caring for it. Already her appeal to millions of working women with special children is being highlighted. Her conservative views on issues other than the lingering doubts about McCain's values have been reassessed. In Alaska, Palin also acquired the reputation of being a gutsy reformist, having led crusades against corruption even in her own party and against the big oil companies and for environmental protection.

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

* * *

At a time, outspoken fear in US politics, Palin leaves no conservative and dynamism into the bipolitical campaign dominated by an aging candidate linked to George Bush. She was also praised in stilted voting new voters whom Obama has captivated, as well as disgruntled Hillary Clinton supporters who still would now love being left out of the 42 cent. Palin hinted at this when she toasted Clinton's "18 million cracks in the toughest ceiling in the world" and vowed to "shatter it once and for all." She specifically cited the "sisterhood of the traveling pantsuits," in Hillary pit it, would take in this relatively unknown politician who makes history as the first woman nominated as the Republicans' vice presidential candidate (Geraldine Ferraro ran decades earlier as the Democrats' 10 candidate).

* * *

As a "maverick" in Alaska politics, Palin twinnes McCain's maverick image in Washington. Her stand against the "Bridge to Nowhere" in the heartland of America which Obama cannot seem to win. But the greater concern of lovers, two voters and the world is, how prepared is she to be governor in time of war? Palin's lack of foreign experience in this age of global crises, given her lack of international exposure and that she'd be one heartbeat away from a president "with a 72-year-old heart" and his own health problems. She'll have to navigate the choppy seas with Biden, a senator for 36 years and well-versed in foreign affairs. A related question is how she'd fare presiding over the US Senate. Moreover, her selection blasts McCain's successful anti-experience theme that he had ran on previous in foreign policy. But Palin's defenders

Flight from Marawi

AUGUST 10, THE DAY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-Arroyo set aside in commemoration the 25th death anniversary of Ninoy, was not an occasion for the celebration of democracy for the constituents of Mindanao State University but a day of fear and anxiety. On that day we were glued to our seats in our boarding houses, watching reports on the fighting that broke out between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Kolambugan, Lanao-norte, and Midsayap, Lanao-del Norte. Phivolcs every news update on the war, I began to wonder what would come next: OCAD's declaration of an all-out war to "protect every inch of Philippine territory" and eastern peace in Mindanao immediately.

Young Blood

Jaffi Griego Lorca

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? Is the millennial generation more than the invertebrate and below — Ed.

The fighting only lasted for six days, but only because of the possibility that the conflict might reach our main campus, but also because of the increasing number of confirmed casualties among civilians.

The members of my family who were monitoring the news were hushed for the safety and demanded that I go home as soon as possible. Immediately, I had visions about my exams and academic requirements! Our classes had already been dismissed for several days. And what about my safety if I should decide to travel? Some of our instructors who live in Iligan or Cagayan de Oro were afraid to go to MSU and hold classes. Some of the colleges had been locked up, and alarming text messages, both true and untrue, were being circulated.

My parents could not be swayed. They insisted that I come home as soon as possible. "What will become of your dreams if you are no longer alive to make them come true?" they asked me.

I texted my cousin if she wanted to come with me, but she refused; for because she had reasons to stay. I was worried about her but I was also afraid that if I insisted, something bad might happen to the two of us on the road. At the same time, I dreaded the thought that Iranao might have been painted in several colleges on campus, as rumors had it. And what if the main campus would be held under siege again, like what happened when President Joseph Estrada declared all-out war against the MILF?

I felt as anxious and uncertain. I looked at my roommates' eyes and knew that they too were afraid. They also wanted to go home but they could not, either because of financial reasons or academic requirements. And for those who were from places like Bagadaw or Datuon, going home was almost impossible since it was a long way to travel.

On Tuesday, Aug. 19, I packed my (6) things and took the papers at three o'clock in the afternoon, not knowing when we ahead. I was not sure if our papers would be able to pass safely through some of the checkpoints of the highway. I feared that we would be another group of kidnapping victims just like some of our friends in the past weeks of the previous month. I called on God and sought His protection, knowing He never sleeps.

The road to Iligan was clear and quiet. How ominous this our journey we realized that the silence of the highway was plemented the tension that we felt inside. I did not give in to my feeling of desperate in that if an encounter should ever occur in Marawi, I needed to be composed. But this tranquility of our trip never underscribed.

We reached the Iligan Bus Terminal and found it very quiet. Gone were the busy and noisy vendors, the usual crowd of passengers, and the many vehicles parked around the place. The big roundabouts in the city were closed. And I felt like the shining pairs of the second inflicted on Iligan City.

On the bus going to Cagayan de Oro, I felt safer the nearer I drew close to home. Before reaching Lapad Iligan, we had to stop again at a checkpoint where all the men were ordered to get off so that the military men could inspect the bus.

When my mother saw me enter the door, she almost broke into tears. And for the first time, I understood the danger we were in, at least in the perceptions of those outside Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte. I noticed my mother's frail hands, which must have grown tired of working so hard in order to support my college studies, but with every hug from she hugged me with more affection. I realized my safety she would not hesitate to give up for the meantime her own dream of seeing me finish college.

She inquired about my cousin, and I could not give her a reassuring answer. And I thought of her and my institution and the thousands of other students who were virtually trapped in the campus. And how about our instructors? Still alarmed? And our prayers?

I write these things with the hope that people outside Mindanao will help us pray. Everybody needs prayer. The people of Mindanao have not grown weary of continually hoping for peace and finding peace elusive. I think of the civilians dying, of children running to save their young lives, of students losing their dreams, and of the soldiers — many of whom I realized that might have purchased a life of rice to feed hungry Filipinos. And I ask God for mercy.

I know that there is always an end to everything. In the case of this war, I hope its end will come soon.

I hope that there will be no more holidays like last Aug. 10, when I have to leave my home for the safety of my own and legacy of a hero who died for his country but because I do not like to celebrate democracy and thread our soil and terrorism at the same time.

Jaffi Griego Lorca, 21, is a student at the Mindanao State University, Marawi City.

Notice to Youngblood contributors:

Send your contributions to a mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Newsstand

Jobai Asay

* * *

They Said

Courage

"Be kind, be stand up. It's not the weapon in your hand that matters, it's the courage in your heart and the principles that you stand for. Our heroes might be limited, we might be attacked. But we have to fight for our homes and our children."

...third runner-up Miss International Vibal's message to his constituents after members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front commenced terrorist activities.

Peace in this holy month?

STARTING YESTERDAY, MUSLIMS OBSERVE the holy month of Ramadan, during which observers abstain from food, water and even wet from sunrise to sunset, refrained to devote their days to prayer, meditation and charity work.

The start of Ramadan is supposed to usher in an undeclared ceasefire in the fighting between MILF (or at least MILF-influenced) local and police and military troops.

But military officials have refused to call a halt to their ongoing offensive, saying that separatist leaders may still mount attacks even on civilian targets, given their alleged penchant for "tactical tactics." Although nobody is sure, least of all the military, owns to think what they're doing is the Christian way.

Peace advocates, relief workers and church organizations have already called for not just a ceasefire, but also for more humane and fair treatment of the combatants, especially innocent civilians and the displaced. Some 600,000 people have been displaced by the fighting, whether Christian, Muslim or Lumad, in the same time, there is an on-line petition to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to intervene and bring back both the government and the MILF to the negotiating table, and call a halt to the armed conflict.

Groups of Muslim Filipino lawyers and students have also issued a statement calling on government security officials "to respect the rights of Muslims in the observance."

"Even as people are still reeling from events in Lanao del Norte, [who] regards from our colleagues in civil society continue to be disturbing," the statement said. "Even as the Eid'l Fitr, which falls on Moro 2009, we hear of insufficient time given to civilians to vacate their villages before AFP bombardment begins. We hear of food blockades against internally displaced people. We hear of MILFs being prevented from delivering [relief] to needed relief items and media personalities being prevented from covering the humanitarian crisis. We hear of a high-ranking national official of DSWD complaining about the assistance to displaced families. [Of] this of the three families per month) as being 'too big'?" The groups called for

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

* * *

But beyond more about the plight of civilians caught in the fighting during a roundtable discussion on the Bangsamoro in Davao City, several participants from Sultan Dumon Lao, who resides in Marawi City and whom Al Mujadillah Development Foundation is currently involved in humanitarian projects in the conflict areas.

"If you want peace, you must prepare for war," the seven want peace," Sultan said (he largely is male audience, most of whom have ages leaders of Cagayan de Oro. The problem with the public pronouncements on both sides on the war zone for the displaced is the "breakdown of communication, is that they cannot "say much like maybe protecting, with one side raising the stakes tonight's televised Duel statehood."

Sultan and other women Muslim leaders spoke of almost-daily requests to the Bahay Pangarap towns, where government forces have blocked delivery of food and other emergency supplies to areas that they believe are controlled by the MILF. Some of the blockades may be traced to the military's belief that some of the supplies would only be turned over to the rebel fighters. But in other cases, there are considered, subsequent aid to towns whose mayors did not support President Macapagal-Arroyo in the election, who is Muslim, during the last elections.

Myrna Jimenez-David, a convenor of Consultancies, a church and civil society network, encouraged her clients to intervene when "this is a war between Muslims and Christians," noting that "if you are a real Christian or Muslim, there should be no conflict among you." The peace process whose apparent failure triggered the current fighting, "is a political process," Myrna reminded us, and for the issues being flogged and acted in the settled by politicians.

What is necessary, said Myrna, is the creation of "an atmosphere of dialogue," seeking that the people of Cagayan de Oro, where Mindanao and Christians co-exist peacefully, "have to be considered as stakeholders in the talks. And Catholic bishops of Marawi, Iligan and Cagayan de Oro have been meeting with Iranao to flesh out this dialogue.

Consultancies has been founded by Eastern Mindanao Archbishop Antonio Ledesma as a forum among Church, civil society and academe for dialogue and action not just on Christian-Muslim dialogue but also for social justice in Mindanao.

* * *

DOMINI, speaking from years of evacuation and relief work, also mentioned the difficulty of applying "international standards" or rookie center templates when responding to such crises. For instance, she noted, most Muslim refugees will seek shelter with other Muslim families in their home towns, rather than find refuge in an evacuation center. But the problem is that the host families are most often themselves destitute and hard put to feed their own relatives.

"In the international aid agencies, by nature, allow us only to provide food for displaced people," complained Yasmin. "But how can we prove the host family—also are themselves very, very poor—of the fighting—from sharing in the relief goods?"

Yasmin also noted that "dignity and self-respect" are just as important to evacuees as food and medicine. For women, just as widely, there are special needs that often escape the notice of aid agencies. For their part, she said, they have prepared a "hygiene kit" for women that includes a bathing, toothbrush and toothpaste, comb and underwear (but govt is long way toward including the women's corner of comfort and self-worth amid the violence.

Protect the high court

LAST WEEK, SEN. JOKER ARROYO RAISED AN outgoing proposal. Perhaps the Supreme Court can suspend its hearings on the controversial Mysmonthlan of Agreement on the ancestral domain issue in Mindanao to "give the lawyers in the other room to prosecute," the military campaign against the MILF to quickly and make a thorough and unimpeded swindy of the MOA."

Truth, it has not often been said, is man's first casualty. One was to understand Arroyo's proposal of a stay order completely at a time when the truth, when the military soldiers are dying on the beachfront, government should allow its troops no sanctuary, not debate.

"The environmental circumstances...a war going on, and there is a threat to a foreign force to the territorial integrity of the Philippines," he says. Any impediment is neither healthy nor conducive to the national interest," he says told the business.

To still ... be disheartening for our troops to be fighting while we argue over the MOA that benefits no one, he said.

It is possible that, as early as Monday last week, Arroyo already knew that Malacañang had reached the point of no return and had decided to junk the MOA in advance terms, regardless of the outcome of the case in the high court. But the fact is not know it for a fact, and this be only meant to remove the element of uncertainty, the sense of ambiguity, from the field of battle.

Ironic, then, that the criticism leveled against the petitioners for their supposed lack of sensitivity to Mindanao's realities underscores the wisdom of the Supreme Court's decision to place the "hard dragon out [much] of government...yes again, in a position brought with danger.

Judging from the oral arguments, it is far from clear that a majority of the justices, or even all of them, are ready to find the "intended" inclusion clause of agreement unconstitutional. But declaring the MOA unconstitutional would not only complicate the peace process, but also expose the high court to the bitter Islamic liberation Front, especially in light of Malacañang's belated change of policy; it would undermine the sacrifice of those soldiers redeeming the role of law and those civilians caught in the renegade MILF offensive. Many will ask the selfless and inevitable question: What did they die for?

If only a majority of justices find the MOA constitutional, or "they unanimously find that it violates the Constitution but offer different reasons for their vote (such as in the landmark case of Estrada vs Arroyo), the decision will prove problematic. Without a clear majority opinion, or unanimity, the nation will have to contend with a multiplicity of views.

My point: For the ambiguities to be fully removed, the high court's decision must be both unanimous and clear. Anything less will be worse than wrong. Any other result would place the future of the peace process in Mindanao at the mercy of the evolution of intermittent consequences.

If the justices' decision is unanimous, then Arroyo's decision to call a ceasefire, if she'll ... apply, especially on the essential question of the MOA's constitutionality; perhaps the Court can decline to rule on the case. With the Executive now fully committed to the new policy of disarmament and peace talks, and with the MILF left defenseless and powerless. The process of the high court can use the means and academic principle to preserve its prestige.

Unless its decision is unanimous and consistent, it seemed at the Supreme Court will find itself in the middle of a storm. It will be a storm it doesn't want, that of inadvertently creating policy on a highly political issue. But it is becoming clearer day by day that a consensus about the limits of negotiation with the MILF is emerging in the two political branches of government. The process is far from perfect, and the outcome is far from assured, but it is possible to hope that there will be no need for the high court to get involved.

Just as well. It is showing was the Supreme Court does not need to undertake the moral of definition.

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FASTPAK EXPRESS

M. LHUILLIER

Wanted: patriotic leaders

IT IS A FAVORITE PROPAGANDA LINE OF THE spokesmen of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that the resistance she faces in the Senate stems from the presidential ambitions of many senators.

It is healthy for our democratic project if we have a reservoir of qualified and morally upright politicians who have no intention of enriching themselves by looting the public coffers, but instead only have their sights set on how to bring progress to the country. In due time, perhaps some of a group of particularly reliable politicians who have been of service to the country will be rightly rewarded with the highest office in the land.

As President, GMA tried to strike as many secret deals that have eroded her credibility beyond redemption, doing irreparable damage to the country's international standing and probably putting future generations of our people at a political and economic disadvantage. It is not enough to merely get GMA out of office in 2010 or sooner. Commensurate punishment should be meted out to her and her cohorts to serve as a lesson to future officials who might abuse the authority of their office.

The way our judicial system has been rated, in recent years, it is doubtful if the people can obtain relief solely by the legal route now in place. Some manner of moral, social and economic pressure in the form of widespread protest, by all sectors of society – private, public, religious and business – is called for if Philippine society is unable to fashion the means of ouster that can deter the worst in its midst. It does not deserve democratic rule and will never be free from the scourge of injustice and grinding poverty.

In recent days it has become very sickening listening to GMA's spokesmen cheering how she longs for lasting peace in Mindanao after her plot at a deceptive BOA ratified the MOA backfired and started another round of fighting. Not much different from the ruffians that her heart bleeds for the poor whose plight have been aggravated in the seven years of her rule.

—E. J. DALUZ III,
emedaluz@yahoo.com

LETTERS

Public auction of Tagaytay lands may be illegal

I APPRECIATE WITH THE INQUIRER'S 100% use of Tagaytay City tollway lands are scheduled for public auction on Sept. 4 and 5, 2008. (Inquirer, 7/16/08, 6/14/08) They face the grim prospect of losing their lands should they fail to pay their tax delinquencies. To their mind, that is the law and they can do nothing against it. But may I ask, "Was the Law faithfully observed?"

The "Service of Sale" clause of the Republic Act 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991) is the legal basis for the auction sale. The law took effect in January 1992, or such it applies only to reality taxes starting that year. Considering that ordinarily any law does not have a retroactive effect, RA 7160 does not therefore apply to tax delinquencies for 1991 and prior years. The law applicable in this case is Presidential Decree 464 which was enacted on June 1, 1974. This decree should also have been noted in the Notice of Sale. Its omission puts into question the validity of the notice.

Under Sec. 276 of the 7160, real property taxes that remain unpaid after five years from the date they become due are no longer subject to collection either by administrative or judicial proceeding. It appears then that a number of the delinquencies listed in the Notice of Sale may in fact have already prescribed. Thus, for example, listed as delinquent for the years 1992 to 2008, what may legally be collectible are taxes for the current year 2008 and for the period 2003-2007. The collection of the tax delinquencies for 1992 to 2002 is already barred by prescription.

The law mandates the local treasurer to "publicly advertise for sale or auction the property or a usable portion thereof as may be necessary to satisfy the tax delinquency and expenses of sale." This provision of the law was obviously ignored. In the Notice of Sale there is one property with an area of 9,618 square meters and a delinquency of P5 million. If only these features, more or less, have a current market value or selling price that approximates the amount of the tax delinquency, then only that portion of the property should have been advertised. Subjecting the whole area to an auction sale when only a portion thereof would suffice to satisfy the tax delinquency is clearly violative of the law. Should the property be sold and the landowner, for one reason or another, be unable to redeem it, he would lose his property worth, say, P40 million for a tax obligation of only P5 million. That indeed would be "unjust, excessive, oppressive and confiscatory."

It appears from the foregoing observations that the Notice of Public Auction Sale in this instance is attended with many defects. Should the sale push through without these defects corrected, it may result in the impairment of the substantive rights of the property owners. Prudence dictates that it be deferred. The auction sale could possibly be voided or nullified.

—LEODEGLIO P. PAREDES, JR.
Ravens Realty Appraisal & Tax Consultancy
Magdalena Building
22nd Street, Davao City 8000

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Across the NATION

Police admit to holding 9 activists

NEWSBRIEFS

■ LUCENA CITY

NPA takes firearms

The NPA-Sorth here in the boundary of Real and Infanta fired a cache of firearms on Saturday after noon during an attack by New People's Army rebels, the spokesperson of the command group said on Sunday.

In an e-mailed statement, Ricardo "Ka Kanor" Ladaga of the NPA's Eleonor Andaya Brand Command operating in Real said the rebels raided the farm owned by Jose Concepcion and disarmed the guards from Philippine Security Agency.

The rebels took the long firearms and three short ones. Ladaga claimed. The attack served as "punishment" for the company's refusal to pay the so-called revolutionary tax and alleged antilabor policies and destruction of the environment, he said.

Julito T. Alafiar Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ BUTUAN CITY

63 seafarers rescued

AT LEAST 63 seafarers were rescued after their ferry was stalled for eight hours in the high seas in Surigao Strait on Friday.

Chief Petty Officer Romeo Hinampas, deputy commander of the Coast Guard in Surigao City, said the MV Grand Star 1 had encountered engine trouble at around 10 a.m., a few hours after it left Liloan in Southern Leyte for Liapala in Surigao City. The ferry is owned by Maharlika Shipping.

"While navigating along Bilat Point, the vessel had an engine breakdown, prompting the vessel's captain to make an SOS call to the Surigao Station," Hinampas said.

Franklin A. Caliguid, Inquirer Mindanao

■ DAVAO CITY

Antiterror group has new head

THE NEW commander of the antiterror Task Force Davao formally assumed office on Friday.

Col. Oscar Lantan replaced Col. Ricardo Rivera Cruz III.

Lantan, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1984, was previously assigned to the Army General Staff in Fort Bonifacio.

Task Force Davao is the city's first line of defense against terrorism and lawlessness.

Jenelle R. Ruidla, Inquirer Mindanao

■ LUCENA CITY

Illegal logs seized in raid

SCOUT RANGER enforcement agents on Aug. 28 confiscated 76 pieces of narra and lauan believed to be illegally cut from the Sierra Madre, Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Calabarzon executive director Nilo Tayong said.

Tayong said the DENR received a report that the forest products were being kept inside a warehouse in Barangay Tiginan. Read more.

Source may be named in the raid.

Julito T. Alafiar Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ TAYABAS CITY

Cop hurt at checkpoint

A policeman manning a checkpoint along the Maharlika Highway was seriously hurt Monday when a wayward vehicle bumped him.

A police report said SPO2 Marcelito Martin was inspecting randomly cars in front of the police checkpoint in Barangay Calumpang when a passenger jeepney bound for Lucena City lost its brakes and sideswiped him.

The jeepney driver from San Juan, Batangas, was held at the Tayabas municipal jail.

Clarmelee Cuaño-Lalu, Philippine Daily Inquirer; Felipe T. Calleja, Inquirer Visayas

■ BOHOL CITY

Cop hit by bullet

A POLICEMAN shot on Aug. 25 when he was accidentally shot by a fellow policeman inside the police station of Tagbilaran City.

Police identified the fatality as PO1 Alvin Dacion, 30.

The suspect, PO1 Mark Ryan Cortez, said he could not believe his firearm would cause the death of his best friend.

The two had been friends since their training at the Philippine National Police two years ago, the Tagbilaran police said.

Clarmelee Cuaño-Lalu, Felipe T. Calleja, Inquirer Visayas

■ BIHALAC CITY

2 soldiers killed, NPA claims

All 43 of the New People's Army (NPA) said it killed two soldiers in Inabanga City on Thursday, the military said the NPA might have been the one with casualties.

In a statement, the NPA claimed that one of its squads, with unannounced soldiers of the 62nd Infantry Battalion (Alpha Company) under Lieutenant Jo Ellis Lanuzo, Barangay San Jose, at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, killing two soldiers. The military denied the NPA statement.

Carlo F. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA—THE REGIONAL SPECIAL OPERATIONS Group of the Calabarzon police admitted to holding nine activists who were reported missing on Sunday.

Senior Supt. Wilfredo Reyes, head of RSOG-Calabarzon, said the group served as a custodial unit of the nine arrested as a checkpoint in Silang, Cavite, by members of the Cavite police.

Arrested were: Renante Alvarez, 43; Rolando Catalig, 48; Nicolito Catalino, 37; Ferrer Romerosa, 37; Felipe Natalio, 24; Bernardo Dennis, 38; Junior Javier, 28; Mario Jones, 55; and Bernard Ignas, 18.

Cavite police director Senior Supt. Bernardo Zoto confirmed that the nine were arrested in a joint operation of Cavite and Calabarzon police.

He told the reporters that they were "related" to left-wing groups. He refused to give details as he described the case as "sensitive."

Reyes, however, said the police had no yet made conclusions that the nine were members of the communist New People's Army (NPA).

He even said in a phone interview that one of them looked like a "commercial model" and another, a security guard.

The nine were still being investigated as police claimed recovering firearms from them.

No charges

No case has yet been filed in court against them.

Reyes said they would be released if no case was filed. "I know no one be charged with arbitrary detention," he said.

The RSOG-Calabarzon has been documing the activists since Sunday at around 3:30 p.m.

In a phone interview on Sunday, Reyes had reportedly denied to the reporters that the RSOG-Calabarzon was holding suspected NPA members.

Ads Savariano, one of the "Tagaytay 37" who was just released from prison after their rebellion case was dismissed, said the activists failed to show up for a meeting in Batangas, Batangas.

The activists were supposed to be there at 8 a.m. to discuss a campaign plan against land-use conversion in time for Farmers' Week in October.

According to Savariano, Alvarez is the president of the Kalipunang mga Magsasaka sa Kabite (Kasamakabite or Farmers' Confederation in Cavite), of which he is a consultant, while four of those arrested were organizers of the group.

According to Karapatan-Ka, the nine who were set board a yellow multicab left the house of Alvarez in Barangay Tarnate in Silang at around 3:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Karapatan and their whereabouts could not be traced and all of their mobile phones had been turned off.

Search

Dinnor Mariano of the human rights group Cavite Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace said the police did the same thing to "Tagaytay 37" two years ago.

Karapatan and former activists Arsenal Pangan and Bel Custodio, and their lawyer Michael Mariano said Jose Flordeliz were abducted in early 2006 and held incommunicado for several days. They were later presented by police as alleged NPA members on a terrorist mission in Manila and charged with rebellion. Atty. Calabarlos Collejo, and Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

MAGUINDANAO WOMAN
A war-torn Muslim woman stands near a mosque in Talayan, Maguindanao, where fighting between government troops and MILF rebels has been reported.

13 Viet fishers nabbed for illegal fishing

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—THIRTEEN Vietnamese fishers were detained in the custody of the Philippine Navy in El Nido in northern Palawan after they were arrested for poaching and illegal entry on Aug. 29 near Cabilocawan Island, Limapoints, according to a patrol-unit report released Monday by the Western Command.

Princess spokesperson Lt. Col. Arnulfo Ibrigan said investigators that the Vietnamese were arrested by the Joint Task Force Malampaya's PG 380-patrol gunboat after a 30-minute chase. Among the detained fish confiscated were 181 sea turtles.

Ibrigan said he was still awaiting a full report on the incident, including the identification of the Vietnamese.

The foreign vessel, fiberglass motorboat was being towed from Limapoints to El Nido as of press time.

He added that charges of violation of Section 87 of Republic Act No. 8550, or poaching, and illegal entry were being readied against the Vietnamese. Their vessel was classified as the military report as having the marking Bmw 912/24 TS.

The Vietnamese tried to sink their own vessel after they were intercepted by the Navy gunboat, Ibrigan said, citing a radio report.

"They had removed the drain plug in the engine room, apparently to try to sink their vessel. The Navy personnel used a submersible pump to drain the water. Maybe they were thinking of justifying their presence in Philippine waters by claiming they had boat damage," Ibrigan said. Redempta Anulo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

3 Capiz journalists condemn text hoax

By Felipe V Calleo
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—A TEXT MESSAGE circulated on Sunday night, telling that three Capiz journalists had died and a fourth one was in critical condition after they figured in a vehicular accident, caused alarm among relatives and friends.

The text message said media men John Heredia, Gerry Pagkatoan and Edward Bonfonte had been declared dead on arrival at the Capiz Emmanuel Hospital while Jessica conveyed to Felipe Tellos was in critical condition.

Heredia is the president of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) in Capiz. Pagkatoan is the editor of Capiz Tiempo while Bonfonte is publisher of the Capiz Chronicle and head of the Provincial Capitol Media Bureau.

The text message turned out to be a hoax as all four were in their homes sleeping.

The four issued a statement on Monday denouncing the text message.

They condemned "in strongest possible terms the text message that circulated in the evening of Aug. 31."

"It is not meant as a joke, then it was a bad joke, to say the least. Its crass is twisted, unnecessary, inhuman to see relatives and friends," they said.

They said the text message was "unedited for and malicious," especially in the wake of the killing of Capiz broadcaster Marvin Bonzo.

"It is not even a joke, one is meant to obscure not only the fact of us but also the whole media community in Capiz on issues affecting public interest? Was it meant to divert the media on the more pressing issues and eventually silence them?" the four asked.

They said they would continue to be impartial in writing news stories "in line with the democratic space we have gained since Edsa."

"We call on our colleagues in media not to be intimidated by this latest attack on press freedom. With God's help, we shall triumph," the statement said.

Cyril Bonpas, station manager of dyCW Bonfire in Roxas City, said he was among those who received the text message from an unknown number using the number 09088184103.

After he received the text at 11:30 p.m. on Sunday, Bonpas said he tried calling the number but it could not be reached.

The unidentified sender also sent similar messages to provincial administrator Jim Herrera, Baras City administrator Ronald Arlige, DPC-PNP Capiz municipal Renato Laguda and DZRH-dyCW reporter Elie Bañas. Bañas forwarded the message to station manager Elmore Abarca of DZRH-dyCW.

The four have been active in reporting the killing of Bonzo, who was shot out of two motorcycle-riding men along Bayot Drive in Roxas City in afternoon of Aug. 7.

Bonzo was brought to the CHS where he was declared dead.

Ombudsman clears 5 NIA execs in Bohol

By Kit Bugarin
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—THE OMBUDSMAN has cleared five officials of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) of charges of alleged anomalies in the construction of an irrigation project in Talibon town.

A 24-page resolution, signed by acting Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro on June 26 but released only recently, dismissed the charges "for lack of substantial legal basis."

Cleared were NIA regional manager Alexander Bayaca, Bohol irrigation officer Calixto Rivera, NIA regional finance manager Jovina Bibanga, canal construction project officer Eduardo Daniel and senior accountant Rose Echavez.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed on Oct. 27, 2004, at the Ombudsman by the Mindanao Against Corruption, Oppression and Social Harassment (Macosh), which said P365 million had been released for the Talibon Small Reservoir Impounding Project (SRIP) although only half of it was completed.

The approved total cost of the project was P563 million based on a revised progress of works approved by the NIA in April 2000.

Bayen lawyer Artemio Cabaron notified the Ombudsman's ruling and assured the complainants of bowing down to the presence of "powerful officials" who could be involved in the case. He, however, did not elaborate.

Motion for reconsideration

Cabaron said his group would file a motion for reconsideration.

The dismissal of the case came two years after a NIA fact-finding team found prima facie evidence against the respondents for irregularities in the implementation of the project.

They had maintained that varying amounts of expenditures were reported by the project field office, the provincial management office and the regional office of NIA.

But the Ombudsman, in its resolution, said it "sees that the variance does not actually pertain to the same amounts reported both."

"The figures submitted by the three offices actually cover expenditures incurred by different offices over different periods of time," it pointed out.

It noted that the fact-finding team failed to show circumstances that could single out responsible parties.

Substantial difference

In the absence of "substantial difference" in the valuation of work accomplishments as assessed by different officials or offices, the varying costs of certain components such as "earthing more than explainable or traceable discrepancies," the ruling cited.

"This [deviation] cannot possibly imply sinecure that an offense has been committed," the Ombudsman pointed out.

It maintained that the actual impact of the deviations ascertained by the NIA fact-finding team could not be assessed yet since the Talibon SRIP had not yet been completed and the Commission on Audit had yet to conduct a post-audit on the project's finances.

Tacloban's bid for cityhood causes word war

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—TACLOBANS bid to become a highly urbanized city (HUC) has triggered a word war between its mayor, Alfred Romualdez, and Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla.

Romualdez has accused Petilla of derailing his administration's drive to get public support and join the roster of highly urbanized cities in the country.

The mayor claimed the governor was opposing the city's reclassification because the province would lose millions of pesos of its share from the internal revenue allotment (IRA) once the city is no longer under its jurisdiction.

Petilla has strongly denied Romualdez's accusation, saying that not once did he talk in public about the issue.

"Unlike him, I never went on public to speak for or against the HUC bid of Tacloban. Neither am I making a house-to-house campaign like him," Petilla said.

Money matters

The amount of IRA share distributed to the local government units depends on its land area and population.

Romualdez said that once the city became an HUC, it would no longer be considered a part of Leyte, thus reducing the provincial government's IRA share by as much as P90 million. Leyte receives about P700 million annually from the national government as its IRA share.

Petilla insisted that he would not mind against Tacloban's wish. But he acknowledged that the province would indeed lose P90 million in IRA share.

The governor, he said, would go to the rest of the provinces and not to Tacloban.

Petilla hailed the claim of Romualdez that once Tacloban became an HUC, it would also mean an increase in the city's IRA share, which stands close to P500 million.

Romualdez is pushing for reclassification, saying that aside from the fact that it already met the requirements, it would help attract more investors.

Basis

Based on the 1991 Local Government Code, a city can be reclassified into an HUC if it has a population of 200,000, as certified by the National Statistics Office, and an annual income of P100 million, as certified by the local treasury and Bureau of Local Finance.

Tacloban's population is now 217,399, with an annual income of P600 million.

An HUC bid has the support of the Eastern Visayas Regional Development Council and the League of Cities of the Philippines. At present, the country has 32 HUCs.

Under Section 453 of the Local Government Code, only the President can declare a city highly urbanized.

However, the proclamation also provides that the bid must be ratified by the city's voters in a plebiscite to be held within 120 days after it is issued.

BAGUIO DAY RALLY

Urban poor groups and left-wing militants march the 99th Baguio Day parade with placards condemning a plan to change the city's 1909 charter. The charter reforms are meant to correct the city's land problems, which the groups oppose. (Story on Page A-7)

Relatives call anew for release of missing activists

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—FAMILIES OF two Iloilo activists abducted more than a year ago have renewed their appeal for the release of their loved ones.

Daughters of Ms. Lulu Pena-Dominado and the wife of Nilo Ocaña called on their captors to free them as they marked the 27th year of the commemoration of the International Day of the Disappeared on Saturday.

"Every day, we think of Inang and Tito Nilo. We worry about their condition and what their abductors might be doing to them," said Dominado's daughters, Iris Mae, 28, and Tamara, 16, in a joint statement.

Bautista Ayala said she would not stop looking for her husband Nilo. "So long as I have not seen his remains I will still believe that he is alive," she said.

Dominado and Ocaña were abducted separately in Bacolod City. They waylaid the victims' vehicle, and shot and critically wounded their companion, human rights worker Jose Ely Custodio.

They left Garachico for dead but he has survived.

The vehicle was found burned in a sugarcane field in Antique town, 30 km. from where they were attacked.

Dominado, a prominent political detainee during the Marcos dictatorship, was the spokesperson in Iloilo of the Samahan ng Mga Ex-Detainee Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (Selda), while Ocaña was chair of the Bayang Aginsang Makabayan (Bayan) in Panay.

Their families and colleagues have blamed military agents for the abduction, pointing at the similarity of the manner of the abduction with those of other cases elsewhere in the country.

Military officials have repeatedly denied the allegations.

The Iloilo Regional Trial Court is hearing a petition for a writ of amparo filed by the families of the missing activists against police and military officials.

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P1,948	P1,248	Manila to Puerto Princesa Davao to Iloilo
P1,988	P1,788	Manila to Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Coratato, Davao, Dipolog, General Santos or Zamboanga Cebu to Clark

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Kin of Ibaloi leader want John Hay named after him

By Desiree Caluza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—DESCENDANTS of an Ibaloi chief leader who stood up against the American colonial government after he was dispossessed of his land have asked the government to give him justice by erasing the 579-hectare Camp John Hay after him.

The heirs of Mateo Cariño said the size of Camp John Hay was part of Cariño's landhold ing that was seized by the Americans in the early 1900s when Baguio was being established.

They aired their call as the city celebrated its 99th founding anniversary yesterday.

Jeanna Cariño, one of the heirs and spokesperson of the Mateo Cariño and Reyna Ortega Foundations, said replacing John Hay's name was one of the ways to recognize Cariño's efforts in defending his right to the land grabbed by the Americans.

"By naming the land after Mateo Cariño and building his monument on that site, the government, in a way, would have symbolically redressed the injustices done to him and to the rest of the Ibaloi who were victims of land grabbing," Jeanna told the Inquirer.

She challenged city officials to support her family's case to reclaim the former shoreline military rest and recreation facility named after former US Secretary of State John Milton Hay.

The area is now a tourism and commercial complex run by the private firm Camp John Hay Development Corp.

Jeanna presented the paper, "The Mateo Cariño and Ibaloan Groups Story: a case study of the dispossession of the native Ibaloi in Baguio City," during the Baguio Local Conference at the University of the Philippines (UP) Baguio on Friday.

"As Baguio City prepares to celebrate its centennial as a chartered city [in 2009], it would do good for the local government to have a sense of history and to be reminded that the city was developed at the expense of large-scale land grabbing of Ibaloi lands," Jeanna said.

The paper said the land area selected, Camp John Hay was built "near Vpit and Usdan, the pasture lands of Mateo Cariño and his ancestors before him."

"In fact, [Mateo Cariño] had already applied for said lands, some which he was issued Possessory Information in 1903, equivalent to a title under the Spanish Royal Decrees. When he, however, tried to register the land, he came up against the full force of the American colonial government," Jeanna said.

She said the land on which the Baguio City Hall, Baguio Central School, Wright Park, Burnham Park, Melvin Jones baseball grounds and Athletic Bowl stand and the area within a kilometer radius from the Bloomer Tree marker in downtown Baguio also belonged to the families of Mateo Cariño and Reyna Ortega. These were also seized by the American colonial government, she said.

Fred Saguiguido Bonifacio, dean of the College of Social Sciences of UP Baguio, said ancestral land claimants who were displaced by the American colonial government would have valid claims to the properties if it was proven their historical situation was connected.

"If there is historical injustice, then it should be corrected. There should be restitution of the class who were dispossessed because of these injustices," Bonifacio said.

"But the restitution may not necessarily mean that you give back the land entirely because there were already changes between the past and the present. There may be other forms of attaining social justice," he said.

"The government may not concede to [the claims] anymore, but we are not saying that principles should be compromised. There should be a striking balance that would benefit both the present stakeholders and the ancestral land claimants."

Joanna Cariño said what the family was trying to reclaim were the unoccupied parcels. "Instead of giving it to multinational corporations, it should be returned to the original occupants," she said.

The conference participants said the government should recognize the Ibaloi as the indigenous people of Baguio who have rights and ratial claims over ancestral lands.

They also urged the government to accept the injustices committed against the people and to identify appropriate mechanisms for reparations.

Joanna Cariño said that before the American colonial government developed Baguio into a thousand-city and later, the country's summer capital, it was a home to a number of Ibaloi clans whose traditional livelihoods were home and cattle grazing, agriculture and gold trading.

Among them were the Cariños, Saribo, Carantes and Molintas clans and their extended family systems, she said.

"Land was plentiful, there were areas of open access, but it was also clear which areas had been developed by the original clans and which were individually recognized as owned by them," she said.

She said the lands Kabagang Spit, Lubas and Cleyo "were recognized by other Ibaloi clans as having been developed and owned by Mateo and Reyna's lineages some time immemorial."

The American colonial government, through an executive order in 1903, reserved these areas for military purposes.

"Mateo Cariño was not only dispossessed of his own land but was even legislated out of his own house," said Jeanna.

Mateo Cariño fought back to defend his ownership of the land by filing a case against the Insular Government of the Philippine Islands.

According to Jeanna Cariño's paper, in February 1909, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the property "grabbed and unconstitutionally taken by the government military for the purpose of establishing its camp was not public land; that it was in fact private property by native title, and it belonged to Mateo Cariño."

Part of the decision said: "The first object in the internal administration of the [Philippine] islands is to do justice to the natives, not to exploit their country for private gain."

"Mateo Cariño did win five to claim his victory having died on June 4, 1909, before the final decision of the US Supreme Court... notwithstanding, he left behind a legacy of the decision of the native title which has since become part of the laws of the land and even of international law," Jeanna said. INFO reports from Jhe Luis Andrew Aquino and Rosemarie Bagulbo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

THIS PHOTO, which appeared in the 1901 edition of Harper's Weekly, shows a basic being prepared by Ibaloi leader Mateo Cariño so that he could find that has become the site of the present Baguio City Hall.

Bill proposing revisions to Baguio charter assailed

BAGUIO CITY—THE CITY DISTRICT celebrated its 99th foundation year, reeling from a dispute over its own charter change plans.

What poor people and activists gathered downtown during the Foundation Day parade, carrying placards condemning House Bill No. 2815, a proposed revision and modernization of the Baguio City Charter of 1909 which has been mulled in Congress since 2005.

Participants in the Baguio Land Conference sponsored by the Cordillera Studies Center of the University of the Philippines Baguio last week also issued a statement rejecting the measure after discussing it and concluding that it encouraged elitism and separatism.

Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan has assured a plenary schedule for the charter, which may be sponsored, but he believes he is resorting that he has efforts because of a flawed interpretation.

Agenda

The bill's main agenda is to extend the city's boundary from the 48.9-square-kilometer territory set in 1900 to its current 57.49-sq km.

But it also simplifies and covers the way the city processes allowable lands, he said.

The Baguio charter was enacted by the American colonial officials who created Baguio on Sept. 1, 1909.

The original document has been misplaced, but it remains relevant for most policymakers because it institutionalizes the city's status as a reservation center.

Allowable lands administered by town site reservations are auctioned off by a Metro Manila-based task force to some alleged applicants (TSA) who can prove that they have used and developed their lots for years.

The American colonial government declared some site reservations in several parts of the country in 1907 but Baguio is the only active town site in the country today.

Domogan said his office agrees that the city's encroached villages, its huge squatting problem and its dwindling land resource base all been attributed to the antiquated town site policy.

The charter reform bill removes the TSA lordy from the land disposition process and transfers the city government's complete control over land sales.

The bill also stipulates that legitimate town site applicants who live on their lots can process their titles without undergoing auctions.

The charter amendments were initiated by the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), which drafted a modern charter document that its framers proudness, lawyer Melchor Sandoval, used as a campaign platform against Domogan during the 2004 elections.

Urban poor

But urban poor groups said Domogan's bill mapped short of solving land titling problems because it would not dismiss the TSA process.

"The [titling] of town site sales applications (TSA) has been so expensive, unnecessary and anomalous such that there is conflicting land use, subdivisions, road rights-of-way [conflicts], [with over the use of] watersheds and forest reserves and overlapping [land] surveys with different reference points," said a position paper drafted during the conference.

During Monday's rally, Vilmanova Dating, secretary general of the urban poor group, Kodon Organization, said, "It is the rich who get the titles to a TSA property, and not the actual occupants."

The urban poor group Gintos, in a paper presented to the conference, said the town site reservation was conceptualized by American governor general to the Philippines William Cameron Forbes as a fund-raising effort to finance Baguio's development. Howard Cabreza with reports from Jhed Mariboguna and Jaime Piñero, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
MCLL Highway, Putik, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this city are inviting prospective Bidders to pre-qualification, and bidding for the following electrical materials / equipment / items, to wit:

No.	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	1,000	■ PCS.	CONDUCTOR #4/0 6/1 ACSR (LOT 10.00)
2	1,500	■ PCS.	CONDUCTOR #4/0 6/1 ACSR (LOT 44.00)
3	1,000	■ PCS.	CONDUCTOR #2 6/1 ACSR (LOT 44.00)

One may obtain the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Chief Financial Officer, Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 pm of September 30, 2009 and no documents pertaining thereto, shall be accepted thereafter.

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of their pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. Post-qualification may be conducted accordingly thereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on September 7, 2009.

Sealed bid or bidding offers should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Chief Financial Officer at the above mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m. of September 11, 2009. Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

The ZAMCELCO Board of Directors reserves the right to reject any and all bids and may be considered advantageous to the city to be also declared as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) HENERICO R. RAMOS
General Manager

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
CLARK, LUZON
Clark International Airport, Mabalacat, Pampanga

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

All interested bidders are invited to pre-qualify and participate in a sealed bidding for the following project:

Contract Number	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract
2009-011	11 units new and used for the general overhauling of two (2) units 100 kVA 3ph/4w diesel synchronous set each unit	P3,800,000.00

On September 15, 2009, the BAC will issue eligibility forms to interested bidders at CAATA Clark International Airport, Mitac Building, Clark International City, Luzon, Philippines.

Qualified bidders may secure bid documents from September 16 to 2009, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, in the amount of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00) with the Cashier. The sealed envelopes can be opened from September 16 to 18, 2009. Qualified bidders will be informed by the BAC of their eligibility to participate in the bidding on September 15, 2009, 10:00 am, and shall not be accepted.

Bidding will be conducted on September 21, 2009, 10:00 am, at CAATA Clark International Airport, Mitac Building, Clark International City, Luzon, Philippines. Bidders are advised to strictly follow the prescribed procedures.

The PROCURING ENTITY reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to accept the most advantageous to the government. Any bid with an incomplete or illegible entry may be rejected.

(Sgd.) ANGEL C. ESPINOZA
Chairman, BAC
Chief Finance Manager

(TFN-Sept. 1, 2009)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Regional Office
Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
City of San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045) 435-8117 to 19; (045) 961-2896
Telefax: (045) 435-8117 loc. 3208

DepED

August 28, 2009

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education Regional Office III, Commonwealth Office Building, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, invites all interested and qualified contractors to apply for eligibility and submit bids for the following projects:

Item No.	Qty.	Item Description and Specifications	ABC (Php)
1	lot	Construction of Singalong Town Gymnasium (Phase I) - Site Development - Site Grading - Site Drainage - Site Landscaping - Site Lighting - Site Utilities - Site Roads and Walkways - Site Parking - Site Signages - Site Fencing - Site Gates - Site Guard House - Site Toilet and Bath - Site Water Tank and Tower - Site Septic Tank - Site Soak Pit - Site Manhole - Site Catch Basin - Site Grease Trap - Site Oil Trap - Site Sewer Line - Site Water Line - Site Gas Line - Site Electrical Line - Site Telephone Line - Site Cable TV Line - Site Fire Protection System - Site Security System - Site Access Control System - Site Surveillance System - Site Intercom System - Site Public Address System - Site Clock System - Site Bell System - Site Alarm System - Site Emergency Lighting System - Site Generator Set - Site Transformer - Site Switchgear - Site Panelboard - Site Distribution Board - Site Circuit Breaker - Site Fuse - Site Relay - Site Contactor - Site Timer - Site Meter - Site Instrument - Site Control Panel - Site Wiring - Site Conduit - Site Cable Tray - Site Ladder - Site Scaffolding - Site Safety Net - Site Safety Harness - Site Safety Helmet - Site Safety Shoes - Site Safety Gloves - Site Safety Goggles - Site Safety Vest - Site Safety Signage - Site Safety Barricade - Site Safety Fence - Site Safety Gate - Site Safety Guard House - Site Safety Toilet and Bath - Site Safety Water Tank and Tower - Site Safety Septic Tank - Site Safety Soak Pit - Site Safety Manhole - Site Safety Catch Basin - Site Safety Grease Trap - Site Safety Oil Trap - Site Safety Sewer Line - Site Safety Water Line - Site Safety Gas Line - Site Safety Electrical Line - Site Safety Telephone Line - Site Safety Cable TV Line - Site Safety Fire Protection System - Site Safety Security System - Site Safety Access Control System - Site Safety Surveillance System - Site Safety Intercom System - Site Safety Public Address System - Site Safety Clock System - Site Safety Bell System - Site Safety Alarm System - Site Safety Emergency Lighting System - Site Safety Generator Set - Site Safety Transformer - Site Safety Switchgear - Site Safety Panelboard - Site Safety Distribution Board - Site Safety Circuit Breaker - Site Safety Fuse - Site Safety Relay - Site Safety Contactor - Site Safety Timer - Site Safety Meter - Site Safety Instrument - Site Safety Control Panel - Site Safety Wiring - Site Safety Conduit - Site Safety Cable Tray - Site Safety Ladder - Site Safety

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Aplus METRO
Editor Baker G. Dipasupil

Murder raps vs Louie Gonzalez junked

Court of Appeals grants motion for reconsideration, citing 'improbabilities'

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE COURT OF APPEALS YESTERDAY DISmissed the murder charges filed against Louisito "Louie" Gonzalez, grandson of former President Elpidio Quirino, saying the credibility of the lone eyewitness was placed in serious doubt with "significant improbabilities in her account."

In a decision penned by Associate Justice Bienvenido Reyes-Fernando, the court granted Gonzalez's motion for reconsideration after the Department of Justice filed charges against him for the death of his stepbrother, Federico Delgado, in the Manila Regional Trial Court last year.

Gonzalez's mother, Vicky Quirino, daughter of the late President, was married to Delgado's father, Francisco, a shipping magnate.

The court also dismissed the murder and lesser physical injuries charges filed against Gonzalez's driver, Antonio Hernandez.

According to the court decision, eyewitness Annalisa Peralta's identification of Gonzalez and Hernandez as the suspects in the murder case "was less than trustworthy and could not have been positive but merely declarative."

Delgado was stabbed dead on Nov. 13, 2007 in his apartment in Malate, Manila. Peralta, his companion, was able to escape and positively identified Gonzalez and Hernandez as their assailants.

"The Court finds sufficient reasons to seriously doubt the identification made by private respondent Peralta pointing to the petitioners as culprits," the decision read.

"Considering the ruthlessness of the attack plus the fact that the assailants had access or made up their faces, it was certainly not possible, at that moment, that she could have seen their faces," it added.

The court further stated that in another statement Peralta executed four days after she issued an initial statement, she "required" her statement by explaining that while the petitioners had "covers" on their faces and while her attention was concentrated on Jessel, she could see through it.

She also claimed that she saw Gonzalez relieve he allegedly removed the cover on his face because of the knife inside the apartment. The justices, however, said this contradicted a police report that the air-conditioner was still on when investigators rushed to the scene.

"Police timely raised out important details—such as the cuts on the assailants' faces, the cutting Vaughn scored of one of the suspects—in her first narration of events that transpired during the commission of the crime," the decision said.

"While her first sworn statement undoubtedly counts as a fresh account of the incident, there are valid reasons to suspect that the second sworn statement could have been tainted, if not supplied or suggested, considering the intervening time between the execution of the first and second statements," the decision said.

The court added that there was a sufficient lapse of time between the commission of the crime when Peralta allegedly saw the assailants and the time she identified them.

"The intervening period, four days to be exact, was more than sufficient to have exposed what she claimed had occurred and thwart perception of the assailant to extraneous influences, which more or less break the link that could establish the requisite degree of certainty of the petitioners could not have been accommodated," MURDEN G.R.

DID YOU KNOW

SIXTY-FOUR percent of live births in Metro Manila from 1998 to 2005 were assisted by doctors, according to the 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey. About 23 percent were assisted by midwives and about 12 percent by hilot (unlicensed traditional midwife or masseuse).

(pnl) L. Benabaro, Inquirer Research

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Firm busted for using fake papers for visa applications

By Alikee W. Lopez

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation has busted a company for attaching fake documents to applications for US visas.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring said agents of the bureau's Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division arrested Undersheds Forich, 63, president and general manager of Pure Aid Philippines Enterprises, in his Sta. Cruz office on Aug. 28.

Mantaring said that apart from submitting fake marriage contracts and birth certificates to the US Embassy, Forich's firm was also authorized to process visa applications.

A check with the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that the company was licensed to engage only in the trade, import and export of commodities.

The NBI earlier received a complaint from the US Embassy about the proliferation of forged documents attached to visa applications.

AFCCD chief Ireneo de Guzman III said they began monitoring the company after learning that it was offering visa assistance services. An undercover NBI agent posed as a visa applicant and was told by Forich that she should pass herself off as married since it was difficult for singles to get a US visa.

The agent was asked to pay P42,500 as initial processing fee, and P150,000 more if her application is approved.

The NBI later raided Forich's firm with US Embassy representatives. Fake marriage contracts, birth certificates, bank statements and Bureau of Internal Revenue forms were found in the office.

Forich, who said he began offering visa assistance services in 2002, told the NBI that he did not have any contacts at the National Statistics Office, adding that he bought the fake documents on Recto Avenue in Manila.

"He would like to warn the public about this modus operandi. They should just go to the US Embassy to apply for a visa or make sure the visa processing company is legitimate," Mantaring said.

He added that they were still looking for Forich's brother, Paul, and his children Gervasio Pardo, Delia Lasalaet, Gerardo and Felgueras Forich who were also officers of the company.

Art exhibit mounted by Burgos family gives hope to kin of 'desaparecidos'

By Marlon Ramos

EVERY TIME HE COMES HOME, Eugenio Jose would check the newspapers fresh in front of their house in Valenzuela City.

Apart from enjoying the sweet scents, the 21-year-old has praised the hopes of finding clients, his missing mother, on the plant's small, delicate flowers.

"Each time I see new sampaguita flowers bloom, it strengthens my belief that my mother is still alive. It gives me something to hold on to," Jose said, recalling that his mother used to water the shrub and remove the dead leaves each morning.

Gloria was taken by armed men believed to be military agents near the boundary of Quezon and Camarines Sur provinces on June 26, 2006.

She was then travelling with her son, Fredmido Udubid, a consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

On the day Gloria disappeared, tears said the foreign guns shone in front of their house stopped hearing flowers and began shedding its leaves.

A year later, flowers once again started to grow on the plant's branches, much to the delight of Jose and his family.

"I know my mother is still alive. I know her condition has improved as shown by the new flowers of the sampaguita," he said. "Maybe she's just being held in a military camp somewhere."

Last week, Jose and the relatives of disappearides or victims of forced disappearances mounted "The Disappeared," an art and photo exhibit in the South Wing lobby of the House of Representatives in Quezon City to show that they have not lost hope in finding their missing loved ones.

The exhibit, that runs until tomorrow and features 17 art works by the brothers and wife of missing former Bayan Burgos, was also aimed at urging lawmakers to act on a pending House bill penalizing perpetrators of involuntary disappearances.

Burgos, an agricultural wife removed on organic farming in militant farmers, has been missing since April 20, 2007.

Many of the paintings were artistically done by my children right after Jonas was abducted. So they say art is a better way of expressing one's emotions. Here, my sons let out their rage and anger," Edith, Jonas' mother, said the heavens.

VISITORS at House of Representatives view paintings that depict the plight of victims of forced disappearances. GREG BAYLON

"ARTIBISTA (ang pag-asa)" by Marian Burgos

The widow of the late press freedom fighter Jose Burgos said the exhibit was a clear reminder to lawmakers of their responsibility of lawmaking laws that would protect the people from injustice.

Jay-ed, Jonas' elder brother, said painting has helped him release his anxiety over the abduction of his sibling.

One of his art works showed several persons holding placards with the word "Surface" written on them.

According to him, the paintings showed the unity among the families of desaparecidos and how they have stood by each other in their quest for justice.

Jay-ed, who has five art works on display, said part of the proceeds from the sales would be used to set up a fund program for the desaparecidos.

Edith said that since President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001, their group has documented a total of 195 cases of enforced disappearances.

Despite their frustration search for Jonas, giving up has never crossed his family's mind.

"I'm confident that we will eventually find Jonas. I know he's still alive," Edith said.

"Maybe God wants us to be more purified. I know His will will be done. He is the source of my peace and calm," she added.

Peaceful Ramadan celebration in Metro, says EPD

By Beverly T. Mendridal

POLICE EXPECT A PEACEFUL CELEbration of Ramadan in various Muslim areas in Metro Manila.

Senior Police Director DPEC director Leon Wilo de la Cruz said the peace and order situation is under control in Muslim areas in the cities of Pasig, Mandaluyong, Marikina and San Juan.

"The Muslim areas here are secure," said De la Cruz in an interview.

These places are usually populated by Maranao and Magindanaon traders scattered in the four cities covered by the EPD.

De la Cruz said officials of the four police headquarters are in "constant communication" with the Salaam Police Centers which are directly monitoring the communities.

The centers, he added, were organized by Muslim communities to police their own ranks. They are sustained by the EPD to report crimes and to coordinate with police.

Residents are also assured that no violence will erupt in the district amid the ongoing fighting in Mindanao between government troops and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), added De la Cruz.

"We check regularly with the current intelligence information," said Dela Cruz. So far, only minor crimes have been reported.

Meanwhile, the more than 100,000 Muslims in Caloocan City are also expected to celebrate the religious holiday peacefully despite the previous conflict in Mindanao.

Coordination

Caloocan police chief William Macaraeg told the reporters that he had ordered all his subordinates and members to orderly monitor the peace and order situation during Ramadan.

Macaraeg said the Muslim community chiefs in Dagat-Dagatan and Bagong Silangan, areas with the largest Muslim population in the city, met with him two weeks ago to coordinate their activities directly with the police.

Muslim communities in Caloocan have a good relationship with the police, but they are also not discounting the possibility of clashes since could erupt in view of the ongoing conflict, he added.

"Most of the Muslims in Caloocan have fled or shut their Isla Mindanao or they will be able to live peacefully. They settled here for business reasons, and are no longer war," said Macaraeg.

MetroBriefs

QC watches out for Aetas

A SOSIA, welfare officer of Quezon City yesterday alerted its personnel and other concerned government units to the expected influx of Aetas in the city during the holiday season. Ms. Teresa Marcelo, deputy social welfare and development department chief, said that based on their experience, Aetas usually flock to the metropolis as early as September. "They come here to beg for money. They practically become street dwellers," Marcelo said. The beautician because of its proximity to the North Luzon Expressway. Quezon City has become the indigenous people's favorite "destination" during holidays. Marcelo said the Aetas were returned to their respective communities in Pampanga and Zambales with the help of the DSWD and the police. She added that although they have not received complaints about the presence of the group, they wanted to warn them, especially the children, from possible abuse and health hazards.

Marlon Ramos

15 houses lost in Taguig fire

AN HOUR-LONG fire hit a residential area in Barangay Hagonoy, Taguig City, yesterday afternoon, gutting down at least 15 houses and displacing 45 families worth of property. No injuries, since investigators have yet to establish the cause of the blaze which hit at 1:...m. Residents near the St. Michael Subdivision, Sector Hap, Phoenix Boutique, city fire marshal said the fire began in the house of Pilar Cipriano at around 1:15 p.m. and quickly spread to 14 other houses. Firemen were able to put out the blaze at 2:15 p.m.

Julie M. Aurelio

Man shot dead by cop

AN UNIDENTIFIED policeman shot dead a 30-year-old auto...who allegedly went berserk Sunday evening in Quezon City. The policeman, said to be a member of the Highway Patrol Group, has not been identified by reporters at Camp Crame. Investigators said the victim, Jeffrey Ilao, was shot by the policeman after he pledged to steal his cellphone and wallet at a computer shop on Virginia Street, Barangay Sauyo in Novaliches. The police said they will ask the MPD to turn over their case for investigation.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Pampanga governor shaken by recall move

IT WOULD BE WELL FOR PRESIDENT Gloria's government to let the Kapampangan people decide their own fate.

The newly revived armed Christian group and other armed groups formed to protect Christian communities will provide a balance of terror against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front by killing innocent civilians and mutilating their remains.

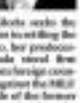
A tape found in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's Camp Abubakar, overrun by government troops during the time of President Estrada, showed Moros beheading captured soldiers and civilians.

Grisly details were shown in the VHS tape about the execution of a captured soldier.

Now, with the revival of the Ilaga Christian vigilante group, the Moros know they can no longer pillage Christian villages and rape and kill innocent civilians with impunity.

They know that the serious fear reminder against Christians will be restored to equal measure, or will even be confirm.

* * *



ON TARGET
Ronnie Tiglao

While President Gloria seeks the help of other countries to stifling the carnage in Mindanao, her predecessor President Estrada stood firm against pressures from foreign countries to declare war against the MILF.

A former close aide of the former President told this writer how he snubbed then US President Bill Clinton.

It seems Clinton had called Estrada to ask him go easy on the Moros.

"Sabihin mo sa kanya wala ako sa Malacañang (Tell him I'm not in Malacañang)," Erap reportedly told a future Ambassador who answered the phone.

What would have happened if GMA were in Erap's shoes at that time?

She probably would have fallen all over the place answering the call of her former classmate at Georgetown University.

* * *

Some senators, including Richard Gordon and Francis Pangilinan, are calling for the disbarment of Jesse L. Santos, lawyer of the President's husband, Miles Arroyo, for trying to influence a court decision.

Senior admin calling Chair Camilo Sabio of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to ask for his head is a "court of Appeals Justice Jose Sobio Jr., in favor the GMS in its case against Meralco.

Sabio is a member of the GMS board of trustees.

He was placed there by the President's husband.

Jun Santos is not arrested as all were the fruits of his disbarment.

He knows it's just all sound and fury that will eventually die down.

Meanwhile, he's basking in all the publicity.

I know Jesse Santos.

* * *

Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio is shaken by the move by many of his armed friends to remove him from office through a recall election.

Now, he wants a dialogue with his detractors.

Panlilio knows that the recall election will most probably take place because he is responsible entering the scenes in the province.

It takes only 180,000 signatures from registered voters in the province for the Commission on Elections to conduct a recall election.

What happens, he's sure to lose to any candidates fielded against him.

What's wrong with the priest who's on leave from the Catholic Church?

He's clean and honest, there's no doubt about it.

His fault is that he projects an image of incompetability at the expense of other Pampanga officials.

The sin of pride is Panlilio's ruin.

Not enough water in case of fire

By Julie M. Aurelio

A TEAM INSPECTING BUILDINGS near Light Rail Transit Line 1 has discovered that two-thirds of the structures do not have an adequate water supply in case of fire.

"We found two major problems, but there were few water supply sources, which is very important in fighting fires," said Renato Sanchez, an engineer and head of the inspection.

Fire Senior Inspector Nicolas Trinidad earlier ordered the creation of a team to inspect buildings and establishments near the overhead train system following a series of fires that have disrupted its operations.

He also directed its members to inspect the Central Park Condominium that was hit by a fire last month.

The mayor previously received reports that the building had a low water supply that made it difficult for firemen to put out the blaze.

There were also complaints that the condominium suffered from recurring power failures and bad electrical wires that arose new smoking.

The inspection team is composed of representatives from the business permits and licensing office, city health department, city administrator, city building officials and the police.

Sanchez said some of the buildings they had inspected so far had fire exits and functional water sprinklers.

But in the case of the 80-hour blaze that hit the Bachelor Terminal Plaza Mall last month, firefighters noted that the fire hydrant nearest the establishment was at the corner of Taft and Taft Avenues, quite far from where the fire broke out.

Murder

From page A17

the decision said.

Delgado's family said the victim was killed because of documents in his possession that allegedly proved their client's security force being deployed off and sold cane as a front by Gonzales.

Gonzales's lawyer, Jerry Ilo, however, insisted that his client could not have killed the victim because he was confined in a hospital at the time the victim was murdered.

Gonzales' family has given Manila police charged Gonzales and Bautista with Delgado's murder, but these were dismissed by acting Manila Prosecutor Delfin Lubiz Jr. who cited Reden's lack of credibility.

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera reversed the findings. The DOJ later filed murder charges against the suspects in the Manila Regional Trial Court.

'Gustav' forces McCain to scale down convention

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA—REPUBLICAN nominee Senator John McCain is scaling back parts of his convention and ordered sharply diminished opening ceremonies for Monday.

Before McCain made the announcement in St. Louis, Minnesota, President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney had already cancelled speeches planned for the Republican gala opening that was to conclude with McCain formally accepting the party nomination on Thursday night. Bush was headed to Texas to be near storm-ravaged areas.

"This is a time when we have to do away with our party politics and we have to act as Americans," McCain said at fellow Republicans converged on their convention city. 1,800 fan up the Mississippi River from where Gustav is bearing down on the US Gulf coast.

The storm, combined with heated down political convention, could deny McCain best days of interest, national news coverage that generally brings a boost in the polls. Recent Obama-Biden poll numbers rose after what were generally regarded as successful Democratic Obama-Biden Convention last week.

But in scaling down the convention and focusing on the storm, McCain can also highlight leadership skills and provide a contrast to Bush's slow response to Hurricane "Katrina"—or a claim that Democrats are trying to cast McCain as a continuation of the Bush presidency.

Bush and Cheney's decision to cancel their speeches may not hurt McCain and he made to distance himself from an unpopular administration.

The heavy pounding of storm months in the planning was unprecedented, affecting not only the program on the podium but the accompanying fundraising, partying and other political activity that underlies around the edges of a national political convention.

McCain's campaign manager Rick Davis said the party would decide how to proceed with plans for the rest of the four-day gathering on a day-to-day basis, as officials assess the damage done by the massive hurricane that was expected to come ashore on Monday from the Gulf of Mexico near New Orleans, Louisiana. The city has only partially recovered from the wicked 1C-1 lash three years ago from Hurricane Katrina.

Clearly remembering the permanent blot left on the Bush administration by its botched handling of Katrina, McCain and his campaign were taking no chances the hair-trim Arizona senator's bid for the presidency would be caught in the same trap.

"I have every expectation that we will not see the mistakes of Katrina repeated," McCain said yesterday.

Davis told reporters inside the convention hall that the two-hour opening program on Monday would be "business only and will refrain from political rhetoric."

To help there in mind, he said, "We are working with the Republican National Committee, Bush administration, financial people, Homeland Security, many other concerned individuals to do what we can to assist county for various charities that operate in the Gulf Coast region."

Officials said that as part of the convention's opening night, first lady Laura Bush and McCain's wife, Cindy would speak from the podium and thereafter suspend their participation in the convention to tend to storm-related duties.

Democrats turned their attention to the storm as well. Obama offered to tap his huge network of donors and volunteers to help any victims of Gustav. AP

MCCAIN and running mate Palin at a rally in O'Fallon, Missouri, on Aug. 31. The GOP has announced it will suspend most of Monday's Republican National Convention activities in Saint Paul, except for what is required by the rules that govern the RNC, as hurricane "Gustav" heads toward New Orleans. AFP

Recession could spark rise in crime, extremism in UK, says report

LONDON—THE ECONOMIC downturn may lead to a rise in crime, illegal protests and far-Right extremism that could drive more people toward terrorism, according to a leaked government document.

A draft letter from the Home Office to Downing Street warns that a severe recession could create conditions likely to increase support for radical Islamist groups.

The downturn could also lead to more burglaries, alcohol and tobacco smuggling and hostility to immigrants as jobs become more scarce.

The warning comes after Chancellor Alistair Darling said the slump could be the worst for 60 years, increasing pressure on Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who is trailing the Conservatives in the polls.

The downturn has already seen a massive power tumble, the pound fell against the dollar and economic growth grind to a halt for the first time since 1992.

The leaked letter, entitled "Responding to Economic Challenges", says "not shocked expert increased public hostility to migrants."

"There is also a risk of a downturn increasing the appeal of this Right extremism and racism, which presents a threat as there is evidence that grievances based on experiencing factors are one of the factors that can lead to people becoming terrorists."

It also warns that "as economic downturns would place a significant upward pressure on acquisitive crime." Burglaries may rise more illegal workers to try to save money, while a decline in people applying for visas could cost revenue for the UK Border Agency, the letter adds.

Police chiefs will have financial pressures from higher fuel bills and wage demands from staff feeling the pinch from increased living costs, it says.

A Home Office spokesperson said on Monday that the letter contained draft advice to the prime minister's Downing Street office, but was never sent.

"We do not normally comment on leaked documents but this is draft advice that the Home Secretary has not cleared and has not been sent to Number 10," the department added in a statement.

"It is however appropriate that the Home Office considers the effects the economic climate may have on crime and other policy issues.

"We are confident that we have the right systems in place to respond flexibly to changing economic needs, and are well-positioned to face future challenges."

Shadow Home Secretary Dominic Grieve said the Home Office allowed to top his huge network of donors and volunteers to help any victims of Gustav. AP

Iraq takes over Anbar from US

RAMADI, IRAQ—IRAQI FORCES ON SUNDAY took over control of Anbar, once the most explosive battlefield in Iraq, from the US military, symbolizing the growing security gains in the war-torn country.

The ceremony to transfer Anbar to local forces took place at the provincial government building in Ramadi, the provincial capital.

It marks the handover of the 11th of Iraq's 18 provinces and the first Sunni province to be returned to the control of the Iraqi government.

"I would like to announce that the Iraqi transfer from the US to Iraqi forces to Anbar," said Mustafa al-Rubaie, Iraq's national security advisor in the handover ceremony.

"The province of Anbar which was one of the hottest regions in Iraq is today celebrating the recalling of the security file."

Police said tens of thousands of Iraqi and US troops were on alert across the vast desert province in western Iraq.

Mahdi al-Gharawi, the provincial police chief, said on Sunday that his forces were ready to accept security responsibility in Anbar, the country's largest province and home to about two million people.

The US military said the transfer of security was an "important milestone with regard to security" in the province.

But the "turning of security does not necessarily mean that the security situation is stable or better," the military statement said.

AN IRAQI woman cries for Koran as her headscarf is shot to the back hands to pulp on Aug. 31. AP

"It means the government and the provincial authorities are ready to take the responsibility for handling it."

Martin Dew, a top US commander in Anbar, said there would be some backlash but they "will be part of the normal life."

"Iraqi police have better intelligence than ours. They have more children than we do in the ranks," he added.

After the transfer, US forces will withdraw to their bases and will take part in military operations only if requested by the provincial governor.

AFP

Coffee may lower risk of uterus cancer

TOKYO—WOMEN WHO DRINK a lot of coffee may have less risk of developing cancer of the uterus, a Japanese study said on Monday.

The study, led by Japan's health ministry, monitored more than 54,000 women aged 40 to 69 over about 15 years, during which time 117 women developed cancer in the womb, according to the medical team.

The researchers at Japan's National Cancer Center divided the women into four groups by the amount of coffee they drank.

They found the group of women who drank more than three cups of coffee every day were more than 60 percent less likely to develop uterine cancer than those who had coffee fewer than two times a week, the study said.

"Coffee may have effects in lowering insulin levels, possibly curbing the risks of developing womb cancer," the study said.

The medical team also studied the effects of drinking green tea, but did not find any link to uterine cancer.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control, uterine cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women.

AFP

Mexican president seeks public's help to beat crime

MEXICO CITY—PRESIDENT FELIPE Calderon on Sunday called on all Mexicans to help fight escalating crime, a day after tens of thousands protested against insecurity and impunity across the country.

Policemen have spilled across Mexico as Calderon, who took office on December 1, 2006, launched a crackdown on drug trafficking and related attacks, including the deployment of more than 36,000 soldiers nationwide.

As Calderon met with private leaders, police in the southern state of Guerrero presented the discovery of the head of a 58-year-old man in an ice cooler, making a total of 10 headless bodies found since Thursday across the country, and adding to a total of almost 5,000 murders that year.

Angry citizens across the country's 32 states took part in Saturday's "Mexico Without Fear" or "Let's Reclaim Mexico" protests, lighting candles and carrying candles, to show a rejection of brutal spiraling violence.

Some 200,000 protested in Mexico City, police said, while more than 60,000 demonstrated in other towns and cities, according to La Jornada daily.

Calderon said on Sunday that the protests "mark a new political moment" by the great force and energy with which we can face criminality," and called on citizens to help official crime-fighting efforts.

The Mexican leader called for the creation of citizens' councils to denounce violence in all Mexican states and large municipalities, in an address to journalists at his Los Pinos residence.

The groups would "serve to denounce (crimes) and promote a culture of participation and democracy," Calderon said, after meeting protest organizers from businesses and citizens groups.

Calderon said that most of the proceeds from his fight against crime have already included the some 800 policemen made at a national security summit 10 days ago.

These included a purge of corrupt police, and the creation of a national citizen's observatory.

He also admitted authorities had been guilty of "incompetence or outright corruption."

"We are very satisfied with the result of this meeting. We believe it's an important step," said Alberto Islas, president of one of the citizen groups, Society in Movement.

Mexico has more seventeen Citizen, but said long with its kidnapping record, a rights group said recently, and most kidnappings are reported in Mexico City with police or ex-police frequently accused of involvement.

AFP

EU struggles for unity on response to Russia's action in Georgia

BRUSSELS—EU LEADERS MET in an extraordinary session on Monday to try to unite behind a strong response to Russia's actions in Georgia, but Moscow insisted it would hit back at any threat to its interests at home or abroad.

The meeting in Brussels followed weeks of divisiveness between EU member states over how far to go to punish Russia for its military campaign in Georgia and its subsequent recognition of Georgian breakaway regions South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states.

"Tomorrow we have an extraordinary meeting of the European Union. This happens extremely rarely. To my knowledge only once before in Nobleza times, in 2002, for the Iraq war," said Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, addressing an international energy conference in Slovenia on Sunday.

"It shows the magnitude of the event. ... This fine day was the Georgia's last changed foreign policy."

In the wake of the conflict, there is discord over Moscow's ties with the 27-nation bloc and the broader West, with Germany and France making clear they should be no move to isolate Russia, while Britain and many former eastern bloc countries arguing it must have some consequences.

The conflict is complicated by the EU's dependence on Moscow for much of its oil and gas, and the struggle to develop other sources such as the Nabucco pipeline due to bring Caspian gas to Europe via Georgia and Turkey.

It is also made difficult by the West's desire to retain friendly corporation on difficult diplomatic issues like Iran's nuclear program.

"Obviously the expectations differ considerably," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier conceded after a

RUSSIA Prime Minister Vladimir Putin stands near a portrait of Minister Stalin on Sept. 1. AP

weekend round of telephone calls between EU capitals.

Russia says its troops into Georgian territory after Georgia's military tried to seize South Ossetia. But Abkhazia, a Moscow-backed region which rejects Tbilisi's rule.

Moscow has withdrawn most of its troops in line with a ceasefire deal but has kept soldiers and equipment in "security zones" which include areas around South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Western governments have demanded Moscow pull its troops back to pre-conflict positions. The Kremlin says the troops are peacekeepers needed to protect the separatist regions from new Georgian aggression.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said his country did not want confrontation or isolation but it would defend its interests when they are threatened.

"The absolute priority for us is the defense of the life and dignity of our citizens, no matter where they are located," Medvedev told Russian television on Sunday.

Some of the options being considered by the EU include sanctions and isolating Russia diplomatically.

Reuters

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quirico

Pressure mounts on Thai leader to quit

BANGKOK, THAILAND—PROTESTERS demanding Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej's resignation vowed on Monday to target the government's water supply and cause more disruptions to travelers to force him from office after an emergency parliamentary debate failed to resolve Thailand's political crisis.

Samak, canceled an official three-day trip to Japan starting on Tuesday the Foreign Ministry said, as thousands of protesters remained camped out at the grounds of Government House, compound for a sixth day. They have refused to budge until Samak steps down—an outcome he has repeatedly ruled out.

Samak called a special joint session of Parliament that lasted 13 hours and ended early Monday without a solution.

"We are very disappointed that Parliament's special session ended with nothing new," said Somsak Kosaisuk, a leader of the People's Alliance for Democracy, which is organizing the protests. "We have no choice now but to put more pressure on the government."

Allies of the antigovernment protesters from labor unions and utility companies have threatened to switch off water and electricity to certain state offices and were resorting to blockades to give their message.

"The tap water at the national police headquarters and at provincial administration offices will be cut off starting Monday," said Somchai Srisuwan, head of the union at Thailand's Waterworks Authority, detailed the warning.

Hundreds of employees from the State Railways of Thailand continued a strike that halted service on Monday on 90 train lines, cutting off most long-distance service between Bangkok and the far northern and northeastern parts of the country, said spokesperson Phairoh Suphavongsiri. More than half of the 76 cargo trains scheduled on Monday were also not running.

There was no schedule for resuming service, which has been disrupted since the strike started on Friday.

Embarrassed by the strike and their inability to control it, the rail authority's seven-member board of directors resigned on Monday saying they saw no other way to take responsibility for the difficulties the strike has caused to the public, the spokesperson said.

Protest organizers accuse Samak's government of corruption and being a proxy for ex-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was deposed in a 2006 bloodless military coup ignited by the alliance's protests. Thaksin recently fled to Britain to escape corruption charges.

The People's Alliance for Democracy and their sympathizers—accountants, the military and the robust elite—complain that Parliament-style democracy only sets one man, one vote gives too much weight to Thailand's rural majority, who protesters say are susceptible to vote-buying that benefits corrupt elites. Protesters also dislike the stand-in role of Samak's cabinet in support of Thaksin and his allies.

The protest leaders want a red lock of Thailand's democratic gains in the post-1973 dictatorship era to restore Parliament's body to which most lawmakers are appointed and only 20 percent elected.

Samak defended himself in Parliament, saying he was right-fully elected prime minister and criticized protesters for violating his democracy-democracy.

"I am sure that I love this country as much as anybody," he said late Sunday in Hebrew. "But I love democracy much more, more than anyone who told me to resign."

Samak reiterated his refusal to bow to protesters' demands. AP

FESTIVE SMOKE Anti-government demonstrators dance to the music during an early morning rock-and-roll session outside Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, on Sept. 1. AP

Small bomb explodes near occupied Gov't House

BANGKOK—A SMALL BOMB exploded in a crowded Bangkok police booth on Monday in a standoff between the Thai Prime Minister and protesters occupying his office entered its seventh day with no signs of either side backing down.

The blast, shortly after 1 a.m., shattered nearby windows but caused no injuries.

Police blamed it on agitators trying to depict them as incapable of maintaining order in the capital of a kingdom ruled over by the elected government.

"They want to show that the government and the police are too weak to protect the people," national police spokesperson Jiraspol Thoomsiang said.

"It is something we expected would be here to stay."

The bomb detonated shortly after the end of a joint parliament session initiated by Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej to rank a way out of the turmoil that has ruined lives of blockaded and damage to already slumbering economic growth. Reuters

FLOOD-AFFECTED people being evacuated from a village northeast of Patna, India, on Aug. 31. AP

India calls in Army, Navy to help in flood rescue

PATNA, INDIA—THE INDIAN ARMY and Navy stepped up efforts on Monday to rescue hundreds of thousands of people marooned by floods and facing severe shortages of food in the east of the country.

Some villagers have been living on rooftops for days, while others are camping on dams and levees after unleashing flood waters.

Aid agencies said the government of the impoverished state of Bihar should have done more to anticipate the disaster and plan relief operations in a region hit by monsoon flooding every year.

"Lessons from the past disasters should be kept in mind while planning response," Action Aid said in a statement. "A long-term comprehensive vision is necessary to deal with relief, recovery and disaster preparedness."

Three million people have been displaced from their homes and at least 90 killed by floods, officials say, after the first dam burst a date in Nepal, swamping hundreds of villages in Bihar and destroying 200,000 hectares of farmlands.

Hundreds of boats are being used to evacuate people, but more are needed, while heavy rains over the past few days have hampered rescue and relief operations, officials said.

"Such is the extent of devastation that the teams deployed are proving too small," Pratyay Amrit, a senior state disaster management official, said on Monday.

The Army, which had already deployed five columns of around 120 men, said in another 14 officials said on Monday while three naval companies were also asked to help.

The situation on the ground is getting desperate.

"We don't have any more food grains in the hill, and are and my family [is] all chewing plants and leaves to stay alive," Mohan Shrestha said, by telephone from a hospital district.

Television pictures showed people fighting to get places in boats.

Over 467,000 people have been evacuated so far, but there are thousands still marooned. Activists and local media say the death toll could be many times higher than official estimates.

Some experts have blamed the floods on heavier monsoon rains caused by global warming, while others say authorities have failed to take preventive measures and improve infrastructure. Reuters

Vogue's fashion photos spark debate in India

NEW DELHI—AN OLD WOMAN wearing her upper front teeth behind a child in rumpled clothes rides a swimming in Pratik hill (small game, about $1.00).

A family of three squeezes onto a motorbike for their daily commute, the mother riding sidesaw a helmet and sidesaddle in the traditional fashion, wary—except that she has a Persian Bubble bag (usually more than $10,000, if you can find one) proudly displayed on her wrist.

Elsewhere, a bedsheet hawker runs holds a thickets umbrella (about $200).

Welcome to the new India—at least as Vogue sees it.

Vogue India's August edition presented 15 large visions of state-spotted accessories, unrelated are by cutaway stars in the wealthiest fraction of Indian society who can actually afford them, but by average Indian people. Perhaps not surprisingly, not everyone in India was amused.

The editorial spread was "not just tacky but downright distasteful," said Rashmi Bansal, a columnist for the daily newspaper Mail Today that is based here.

There's nothing "fun or funny" about putting a poor person in a mud hut in clothing designed by Alexander McQueen, she said in a telephone interview. "These are luxury articles here, for God's sake," she said, referring to thousands of Indian farmers who have killed themselves in the last decade because of debt.

Nearly half of India's population—about 400 million people—live on less than $1.25 a day, according to World Bank figures released last week. But as any well-heeled luxury goods marketer pumping into India these days can tell a $1,000 handbag in a country where most people will never access that sum of money in their lives? The answer is not clear cut, though Vogue's approach may not be the way to go.

Vogue India editor Priya Tanna's message to critics of the August shoot: "Lighten up," she said in a telephone interview. "India is an incredible mix & fashion, you can't take it that seriously." AFP

Olmert turmoil delays Israel-Palestinian peace effort

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN officials on Saturday played down the prospect of any immediate peace announcement as Ehud Olmert, the embattled prime minister of Israel, began his final phase in office.

Mark Regev, a spokesperson for Olmert, noted "considerable gaps" in the negotiating positions and said it was unrealistic to expect to resolve all the issues on the table "in the next two or three weeks."

Olmert met here on Sunday with the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, and the caretaker Hamas, another Olmert had been pressing ahead to agree at a joint declaration of principles before Olmert is replaced as leader of his Kadima Party in an election scheduled on Sept. 17.

Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian negotiator, said the meeting was "mostly" after "kicks" to the news media had raised the possibility of a partial agreement that would not resolve all the core issues. "We made it very clear today that there would be no delay of issues and no partial agreements," Erekat said.

Olmert, who is being forced from office by a corruption investigation, has pledged to resign once his successor has been elected. He is expected to continue as a caretaker prime minister until a new government is formed, a process that could take weeks or months.

But in that capacity, Olmert is likely to have even less room over the Israeli public than he has now on decisions of historic importance. The Palestinians are entering the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, a time of heightened religious activity generally, which dawn.

Both sides welcomed their commitment to the peace effort that began at the 15-sponsored Annapolis conference last fall and said again that they hoped to reach agreement before the end of 2008. AFP

Pakistan military halts offensive for Ramadan

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—THE military has suspended air strikes and ground-fire in Pakistan's volatile northwest for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, officials said on Monday, raising concerns insurgents seeking refuge among the Afghan border would have a chance to regroup.

Security forces warned that any provocation in the Bajaur tribal region, a stationed hideout of Osama bin Laden, would bring immediate retaliation.

Pakistan's 3-month-old government of his elected peace talks with Taliban and al-Qaida-linked militants living in rugged, mountainous regions, but those efforts have little fruit. It has since turned to force, pounding suspected hideouts with helicopter gunships and fighter jets.

Interior Minister Chief Rehman Malik said from weeks of fighting in Bajur has killed more than 900 militants—some of whom welcomed Monday's end to military operations even though Taliban spokesperson Maulvi Umar said they would not lay down their arms as demanded.

The rebel-hits campaign, also has seen more than 300,000 people fleeing in relief camps.

Many, barely wearing by, said they would not allowed to make the journey home for Ramadan and would instead spend the month with their families in sweltering, mosquito-infested camps. Others started gathering up their few belongings in Monday and piling into buses and pickup trucks to return home.

"God knows what will happen once we get there," said Sheikh Ali Khan, who was barbecuing naan bread and flies children as their squatted in Dadar, an area of Bajur. "But we're living in shambles here. Our family has been separated, we do not have enough food, proper clothing or beds."

American officials have pressed Islamabad to crack down on militants in its tribal regions, fearing Taliban and al-Qaida-linked fighters involved in attacks on US and Nato forces in Afghanistan use those border areas as safe haven.

The US is suspected of launching a series of missile strikes targeting alleged militant compounds in Pakistan's rugged and lawless tribal areas along the border, including one Sunday that left two dead.

Pakistan is expected to officially begin on Tuesday or Wednesday in Pakistan, though the timing depends on the appearance of the new moon.

Defense analyst Talat Masood said the suspension of massive military operations in Bajur, which began in only August, risked squandering any gains made by security forces in the AP

AN AFGHAN man prepares meals on the first day of the holy Muslim month of Ramadan in Kabul on Sept 1. During Ramadan, Muslims, who near the world over, are supposed to fast from dawn to dusk. Those who cannot do so are encouraged to break the fast. AFP

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JOSH Vital-Li's junior Ryan Sena (13) pivots for a shot off Philippine Christian Li's junior Arce (19) in yesterday's game at the Cuneta duetodrome. The Bombers prevailed. JOAN LANDICHO

Heavy Bombers nail s'final playoff berth

By Cedelff Tupas

A LATE FLURRY OF TRIPLES BY Arbie Wilson propelled Arao Rizal University past Philippine Christian University, 79-54, yesterday, securing the Rivers Bombers of a playoff for a Final four berth in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The junior forward knocked in five triples in a three-minute span in the fourth quarter, putting the Bombers beyond reach at 76-48, with 4:40 left.

"He's (Wilson) been really struggling because he had a different role when he played in the PBL," said JRU coach Ariel Vanguardia, whose Bombers could clinch the semifinal slot with a victory over Mapua on Friday.

"Hopefully, this game is the start of something for him because his contribution will be crucial in our next few games."

The 6-foot-2 Wilson went 6-of-9 from beyond the arc and finished with 20 points, all coming in the second half, as well as three steals in 22 minutes.

"The job is not yet finished because we haven't made the Final Four yet," said Vanguardia after the Bombers savored a one-game playoff Holy Ark ended 11 games of futility with a stunning 75-65 overtime win over fellow newcomers College of St. Benilde-Malayan.

Mike Xiong, who had earlier forced the extension by nailing two free throws at the end of regulation play, poured eight of his 23 points in the extra session as the Altas won for only the first time since posting a 68-51 triumph over San Sebastian on opening day last June 28.

Ronald Reyes also registered an impressive all-around effort with 14 points and 10 rebounds, seven assists and three steals for the Altas, who can play spoilers when they close out their campaign against Mapua on Wednesday.

The Blazers finished the league's 64th season with a 4-14 card, their best record in three seasons.

Archie David could have sealed the win for the Blazers with 1.1 seconds left but he split his free throws for a precarious 63-62 lead.

In the juniors' division, La Salle Green Hills moved up to No. 4 with an 84-63 thrashing of Stopwood Help, their sixth win in 11 games.

The early scores

Second Game

PHILCHRIST (54)—Xiong M. 23, Reyes M. 14, Salvador H. 8, Katig J. 8, Reyes S. 5, Nuico S. 2, Dulay J. 2, Salonga F. Salazar G. Magno G. Total 0.

ST. BENILDE-M (75)—David G. Abrahar 12, Mendezabal 11, Salazar-E Bernal 7, Manlapaz J. Mendoza 2, Pendell S. Santos I. Abdulcarim.

Scores: 19-17, 30-34, 40-40, 53-63, 75-65

Third Game

JRU (6)—Wilson 20, Dera 14, Caposo 9, Ilao 7, Nocum 6, Galagdag 4, Agot 4, Montemayor 2, Agas 2, Aquino 2, Nadurata

PEU (59)—Suarez 17, Amparado 10, Ana 8, Mejia 7, Dunes G, Zamora J, Alfaro 4, Rosa S, Vidal 2, Asuncion 2, San Pedro 0.

Scores: 19-14, 32-30, 53-42, 79-54

DL Hoya not likely to halt Manny early

By Roy Luarca

DELA HOYA

OSCAR DE LA HOYA may be taller, longer and bigger than Manny Pacquiao but, based on his ring record, he is unlikely to bring down the Filipino icon in the early rounds.

De La Hoya, the 16-time American world champion with 30 knockouts, has only a 12 percent chance of finishing off Pacquiao in the early rounds of their 8 p.m. showdown at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, the same record shown.

Through De La Hoya has 38 knockouts on his pro chest, only four of them came in the first round.

And these hapless victims never weathered near the caliber of Pacquiao, who will be giving up four inches to height (5-foot-8 to 5-foot-10), five centimeters in reach (66 to 71) and at least 13 pounds in weight (140-160) against De La Hoya when they ring it out for 12 rounds.

The last time De La Hoya stopped an opponent in the first round was nearly 15 years ago—the notorious Sanchez Valenzuela.

Now at 35, De La Hoya has become evidently slower, as shown by the three losses he absorbed in his last six fights.

But many boxing pundits believe that Pacquiao, having turned at 107 lb, is too small to hurt De La Hoya, who has been described as one who possesses solid chin.

Pacquiao has admittedly said that it will take some heavy pounding to bring down a great warrior like De La Hoya.

But Pacquiao has also proven that he can also patiently chip away at De La Hoya's granite foundation.

Memories still linger of the tough David Diaz finally crumbling after absorbing a steady stream of solid punches in the ninth round of his World Boxing Council lightweight title clash with Pacquiao in June.

Pacquiao, pundits say, is also more dangerous when he is wearing the tenderizing tag.

NATIONAL coach Franco Pamparo (right) plots a play for his players at a practice session before the team left for Taiwan last week.

FIBA-ASIA UNDER-18

Sharp Korean five rips RP Youth

SOUTH KOREA NEEDED ONLY TWO quarters to take the sting out of the Noble KP Youth Team yesterday, posting an easy 98-80 victory in the quarterfinals of the FIBA-Asia Championship for Junior men at the Ateneli Stadium in Tehran, Iran.

Using their impressive speed and accurate shooting, the Koreans took complete control after Jaypee Mendoza put the Filipinos (0-1) down 49-39 at the end of the third quarter.

Mendoza crashed to the floor after his follow-up basket. He was left with dizzy spells on his knee after the incident, he was brought to the hospital to undergo a CT scan and other medical procedures.

"We started out flat and that gave the Koreans the momentum they rode all the way to the end," said 6'6" youth coach Frans Pamparo in an email message to Manila sportswriters.

With the setback, the RP team now has to win its remaining quarterfinal assignments in Group 2 of the winners' bracket against Japan today and beat loss tomorrow to avoid elimination.

The Koreans raced to a 50-39 advantage at halftime and stretched the lead to 68-46 midway in the third period.

"Korea played its best game while we played our worst," said Pamparo. "We will do better if we get a chance to play them again."

The top two teams in Groups 1 and 2 advance to the semifinals with the finalists and the third-placers meeting the three Asian slots for the Fiba World U-19 Championships next year in New Zealand.

Tonight, playing in Group 1 are China, Kazakhstan, Lebanon and Syria.

Jane Bautista

The scores:

SOUTH KOREA 98—J. Lee 20, Park D. Jang 16, D. Lee 10, Park E. 7, Choi J. 6, Park S. 6, Kim 5, Lim 5, Han 5

PHILIPPINES 80—Garcia 15, Mendoza 14, Perez 12, Suerte 8, Wright 8, Tuano 7, Rayosa 5, Sangalang 4, Santolan 3, Paredes 2, De Guzman 2

Quarters: 24-22, 50-39, 73-61, 98-80

SO: Draw with Nida proves costly

So falls short, shares second in Vietnam Open

Final standings (Vietnamese names listed first): 1. Quoc, V. Le (Vietnam) 2. Somjaimanee, Chanpeng, W. Tai (RP), 3.5—4. Dinamo (Vietnam), 5.5—6. Hung, H. Binh (RP), 6.5—7. Vinh, T. Le (Vietnam), 8.5—9. Hung, T. Tai, M. Son (Singapore), 9. Quang, S.L—11. Khoa (RP), 9.5—12. Hung, D. Le (Vietnam), 10.5—13. Duong, V. Le (Vietnam), 11.5—14. Tuan, H. Nam, 12.5—15. Truong, D. Le (Vietnam), 13.5—16. Tuan, H. Nam, 14.5—17. Hung, T.K. Le (Vietnam), 15.5—18. Tuan, T. Le (Vietnam), 16.5—19. Hung, D.K. Le (Vietnam), 17.5—20. Tuan, T. Le (Vietnam), 18.5—21. Hung, T. Le (Vietnam), 19.5—22. Tuan, T. Le (Vietnam), 20.5—23. Hung, T. Le (Vietnam), 21.5—24. Tuan, T. Le (Vietnam), 22.5—25. Hung, T. Le (Vietnam), 23.5—26. Tuan, T. Le (Vietnam), 24.5—27. Hung, T. Le (Vietnam),

Pacquiao: Beware of the intangibles

BARE EYE

Recio Trinidad

FREDDIE ROACH PUNCHED HARD and scored when he notice that Manny Pacquiao, though unable to be stronger and faster than the taller Oscar De La Hoya.

There's no reason to doubt Mr. Roach. He's a truly sound trainer, maybe the best the best-fighting sport has to in current big today.

Roach may indeed have a point in declaring that the Golden Boy could no longer pull the trigger.

De La Hoya, as expected, readily brushed off the Roach dig as hogwash.

* * *

My best money again goes to Pacquiao in this area case.

But before I glance my bet—there may more than enough Arbitrageurs in the marketplace itching to wager on Oscar—one thing has got to be cleared.

OK, we did make a few knocks on Pacquiao in his past fights but, just to make sure our Mexican friends don't get even or gain the upper hand, we would beg Roach for some assurance.

For example, in gleefully detailing De La Hoya's age-related deficiencies, didn't Roach also overlook Pacquiao's basic defects?

* * *

The issue is not doubt on Pacquiao's ability in dash and stupefy the foe.

He has more than person this terrifying trait and, in fact, patented the sensational style.

But, having being a sport of give and take, one thing has got to be cleared.

Will Pacquiao be ready and able to duck and avoid half the number of punches he's expected to receive when he squares off with De La Hoya at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Dec. 6?

* * *

Pacquiao dat-hands would be quick to claim that the Pacman's sensational speed, his stamina-like effrontery, should overwhelm the foe and readily cover up for whatever defensive sharpness he lacks.

If in basketball, it would be equal to offense being a great defense.

Of course, it's also easy to suspect that these same fans based their projections on Pacquiao's last outing in Las Vegas.

Yes, the one where Pacquiao scored a big one for Filipino nobility before the world when he first tried to help the fallen David Diaz get up while forgetting to readily acknowledge the assured award.

* * *

It would indeed be a walk in the park for Pacquiao if, say, De La Hoya was as out to be a counter of Diaz.

Problem is he's not.

Oscar is a counter, a dad of a champ who just stood there paralyzed when the going got rough.

De La Hoya, on the other hand, is a living anachronism.

And he says only he's expected to either juxtapose or else back to order to live up to his legend on fight night.

Roach thought Oscar may no longer be able to swing it like in the old times.

But, at the same time, Oscar will not allow himself to be nullified and punched, the way he's often appeared in his losing against Floyd Mayweather last year.

* * *

How and why?

Pacquiao cannot be Mayweather in the same manner that Diaz cannot be De La Hoya.

Much as he likes it, Pacquiao cannot be as slippery, as unpredictable as the fighter he succeeded as the world pound-for-pound champ.

Yes, Oscar may no longer be the same sharp gamblinger but he wasn't hurry and hesitant to flee at an open, predictable target this time out.

Said Red Nazario, the guru who charted Pacquiao's path to superstardom, in an exclusive talk with Nick Glengoa of the Reporter: "If Oscar going to be only (for Pacquiao) because De La Hoya will stick out his left hand to keep Manny at bay. This is going to be tough."

Add to that the fact that the smaller Pacquiao, in a bid to counter, will have to wade in hard and in the process take plenty to counterpunching, which De La Hoya has mastered.

* * *

All told, Pacquiao could endure his chances at beating the bigger fellow more improved. De La Hoya if he wrecks harder on improving his defense.

Other than learn to roll with the punches, he should also avoid dropping his guard whenever he mistake.

OK, he cannot hope to be so elusive, if not invisible, as the great Floyd Mayweather.

Still Pacquiao could seem awesome heights if he comes prepared to put his chin against the rocky prototype.

If Pacquiao, however, shows up half prepared in defense as he did against Juan Manuel Marquez earlier in the year, he'll find a bigger enemy in himself than he would be for De Hoya.

All told, Pacquiao still has time to work and unleash the intangibles which, to the end, could spell victory or defeat for the greatest Filipino boxer of all time.

Painters give up De Vance for Laure, Mercado

By Jose Navarro

RAIN OR SHINE ADDED MORE MUSCLE TO its guard rotation a day after dragging Gabe Norwood as the top overall pick of the 2008 PBA Rookie Draft.

The Elasto Painters are sophomore forward Joe De Vance to the Alaska Aces in exchange for rookie Solomon Mercado and five-year veteran forward Eddie Laure yesterday.

Tabbed by the Aces at fifth overall during Sunday's draft, the 6-foot-1 Mercado will now be groomed, at 6-5 guard from UNO-Gen Division 1 school Bicol Mission University in the backcourt rotation of the Elasto Painters.

De Vance, last year's top draft pick who led all newcomers with 13.6 points and 6.5 rebounds, will provide Alaska coach Tim Cone an option other than Jeong Jeon and power forward Reynel Hugnatan.

"We're [De Vance's] rationed but we are more inclined to have a team that have to this, strings-ball style," said Tuin or Elasto head coach Chito Garcia.

Plagued by injuries last year, the 6-7 De Vance has the tendency to take more attempts from the outside than risk it up and hang bodies inside the paint.

Apart from releasing De Vance, the Elasto Painters also gave up a pair of second-round picks for the next two seasons.

With the 6-7 Jay-R Reyes and Laure now manning the slot for the Elasto Painters, Garcia said the team is searching for another big guy as reliever for Reyes.

UST coach Pido Jarencio (left) watches as UE's Herrion Linga drives off the Tigers' Chris Camus in Sunday's game.

AUGUST MALLARI

UAAP SHOCKER

Cliffhangers doom Tigers

By Jeannine M. Pays

WITH HIS TEAM REDUCED TO TEARS AT the hands of University of Santo Tomas coach Pido Jarencio did the rural Isko Dalog concede his boys after unexpected by rewarding out of the UAAP Final Four.

"Of course, the team was hurting, so I told them positive things," Jarencio said of the Tigers' post-game huddle following their heartbreaking 69-67 loss in the University of the East Red Warriors in the men's basketball competition last Sunday.

"I told the boys that it's not their fault and they should change it in upcoming."

In one of the most thrilling games of the season, the Tigers nearly wiped out a 24-point deficit, 74-50, despite the absence of Jarencio in the final five minutes of the game, before falling just a basket short of victory.

Jarencio's shock ejection may have prompted the Tigers' inspired ping but the coach still felt he didn't deserve his punishment.

"All coaches have the right to complain," said the former Cimeba forward.

"If I'm excessive, you're given a technical, you're out during the next game. I missed my arena, but I didn't coach any of those (the referees). But it's not I'm happy the players showed Tecnanian pride. They didn't give up."

Game officials said they threw out Jarencio due to his "physical confrontation with a referee."

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	13	1
DLSU	12	2
La Salle	10	3
UE	8	5
FEU	6	7
UST	5	8
Adamson	3	10
NU	2	11

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

(Ateneo Coliseum)

1 p.m. — Adamson vs NU

vs DLSU

3:30 p.m. — UE vs UST

with 5:06 minutes left in the fourth period.

Along with the three-point ruler by Ryann Alecis at the bonner, the Tigermen missed the Final Four with its 5-0 card.

But the record, Jarencio pointed out, belied the Tigers' aggressive run.

"We never lost in double figures, it always came down to the final one or two minutes," said Jarencio of the Tigers.

Three days before the two-point UE setback, the Tigers also lost after a buzzer-beating shot lifted the defending champions La Salle Green archer to victory, 81-79.

On Saturday, Jarencio and his Tigers will wrap up their season against host University of the Philippines Maroons.

Jarencio will be back on the bench after recommendation Chito Narvasa opted not to chip in one game suspension on the three-year UST mentor since the ejection was "non-enough."

It will also be the last league game for six Tigers, including reigning MVP Jerry Cruz and veteran point guard Jojo Cuan, who played key roles in UST's 2006 championship run.

Ex-UAAP stars key Mighty Sports win

FORMER SAFETY STANDouts Dominic Uy and Edrick Feroz contributed three-as San Juan Mighty Sports on Saturday Philippine-AGFA, 94-81, and kept its semifinal hopes alive in the Inter-City Basketball Tournament resuming at the San Juan City gym.

Uy, who played for De La Salle Green Archers in the late UPECA, and Feroz, a standout of the University of the Philippines Fighting Maroons some years back, came through with big three-point baskets in the pivotal final period to finally take the fight out of Bonifacio.

With the win, the San Juan dribblers, backed by Mayor JV Ejercito and Mighty Sports, improved their record to 4-2.

Gilbert Malabanan, Jerwyn Garcia and former Cebuano Sen. Miguel Zubiri may Noli Locsin also struck hard for San Juan-Mighty Sports with their power plays inside.

Malabanan led San Juan-Mighty Sports with 17 points while Garcia, hoping to play city-wide in the pro leagues, chipped in 14 points.

Uy, who is also into car racing, and Feroz combined for 24 points. Locsin finished with nine points.

San Juan-Mighty Sports shoots for semifinal berth today when it battles Quezon City II.

'Save Pasa' wants action now

THE GROUP CALLING ITSELF "SAVE PASA Movement" yesterday urged the Philippine Olympic Committee to take immediate action on the leadership issue at the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association.

The POC Executive Board, in a meeting last June 17, agreed to put the matter in abeyance until after the Beijing Olympics.

"Since that the Olympics is over, we trust that POC will give this urgent matter its full attention," Jose Ong, spokesperson of the group, said in a letter to POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco yesterday.

Because Mark Joseph did not hold any elections, Ong's group said he violated the conditions set by the POC in recognizing him as temporary president in February 2003.

But Joseph claims that the decision of the POC recognizing his presidency had "no compromises, conditions or anything."

The Save PASA Movement is calling for an election of regional officers as well as of the new Pasa president.

Cedelf P. Fajnes

Sea Lions surprise Generals

THE DAUNTLESS COLLEGE OF SAN JUAN DE BRITTO ON the heels of Mother Nature in the mid-game to pull off a 70-68 upset win over the Cavite Aguinaldo College Generals yesterday in the season Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball tournament at the Filoil Flying V Centre.

Virginia, who dedicated 14 points like Leonard Ventura, three-peat Ronnel Tagaytay with 20 points to go and three assisted and turned out to be the winning basket.

From the San Lions' first win over the Generals in seven years, and their second in three games in the league this season.

The San Lions also scored a 19-88 shock victory over defending champion St. Francis of Assisi College before the Ocean pulled out last week.

Rodfer Gutierrez, San Mateo scored 17 points for the La Salle Dasmariñas Patriots to Bay themselves the Vista College-Laguna Stallions, 83-62.

Go, Gobing lead W. Wack winners

BOMBARDED BY ANN JOHN GOB-ing posted impressive scores to shave top honors in the 5th President's Cup tournament at the East and West courses of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club recently.

Go, a 63-handicapper, clinched low net honors with 68 points while Gobing had a one-over 73 for the low gross title in the event held in honor of club head Luis K. Tan.

Wilbert Tan, Hank Dans, Alan Bolipata, Ronnie Sarino, Alex Jay Gringgo, Celso Tia, and Gene Abon were the other winners.

Tan tallied 63, then signed David Chu in the countback for the Group I plums.

Chua scored 44, then beat businessets Robbie in a rubmak in Group II, while Bolipata's 43 was good for a one-point victory in Group III.

Indoor came up with a 46 in topping seniors play while Gringgo and Tia both had 35s to rule the Indoor Groups I and 2.

Abon emerged champion of the special division among guests and sponsors while Jackpot Kenny Tan and the sports and games committee generous more than 150 million worth of prizes for the 18-hole tournament.

Go (right) receives his trophy from club head Luis K. Tan.

SPORTSWATCH

UPLB 10K, 5K races slated

HUNDREDS OF RUNNING BUFFS ARE expected at the starting line for the Takbo sa Silang Bato, Takbo ng Kalikasan' 10K and 5K races on Sept. 14 at the UP Los Baños in Laguna.

The environmental awareness advocacy of the races coincides with the centennial celebrations of The University of the Philippines, organizers said.

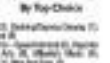
The runners will be limited to least of Baker-Oak Entry fee is P450.

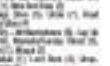
80 stag fights at Baliuag

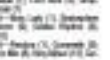
COCKFIGHTING ENTHUSIASTS FROM Southern Luzon, Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Ilocos, Bicol, Cavite, Laguna and Batangas get set to be battle in today's Sing Buhay-ni-4 sing derby at Baliuag Cockpit Arena.

Almost 80 fights will be staged in this showdown of cockfight classics, according to cockpit owner and host Teddy Ligon.

Ligon has slated a guaranteed prize of P400,000. Entry fee is P5,000.







Realtors coach, manager earn scribes' top honors

BOYET Fernandez

STA. LUCIA COACH BOYET Fernandez and Smart representative Buddy Encarnado will be the recipients of the Ruby Dalupan and the Benny Flores Trophies, respectively, in the Smart Sports-PBC 2008 All-Star Dinner Corps Awards tonight, capping a fruitful Philippine Basketball Association season that saw the Realtors win the coveted All-Filipino championship.

Fernandez has been chosen Coach of the Year while Encarnado is the Executive of the Year in the awards that set 7:30 p.m. at the Bayview Park Hotel along Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

The Realtors' banner year also resulted in Most Valuable Player honors for Rolly Williams and the Rookie of the Year award for Ryan Reyes.

Fernandez beat Ginebra's Ang Victoria, Red Bull's Yeng Guiao and Air21's Bo Perasol on the strength of Sta. Lucia's All-Filipino conquest in only his second conference as head coach of the team.

Encarnado, the chief architect of the triumphant Sta. Lucia lineup, is the fourth-time choice as Executive of the Year.

The Sta. Lucia top official drew up the master plan and pieced together the materials to their championship run last March. And he would cast a bright light even during the team's dark moment in the season.

He was lauded by his fellow PBA officials for excelling as coach at a season owner, seeking wayward import Lee Benson in a crucial game the team couldn't afford to lose in the Fiesta Conference quarterfinals.

The awarding of the Coach of the Year and the Executive of the Year highlights the PBAPC awards night where Alaska team owner Wilfred Steven Uytengsu, the Philippines' first & Young 2007 Entrepreneur of the Year awardee, is the guest of honor and speaker.

The other awardees are 6(2)11 Arwind Santos (Defensive Player of the Year), Purefoods' Jayjay Helterbrand (Most Valuable Player), Red Bull's Mike Hrabak (Comeback Player of the Year), Purefoods' Jeffrey Hubalde (Most Improved Player), Coca-Cola's Joe Devance, Air21's Doug Kramer and Coca-Cola's Rodney Ruzzuli.

The PBA press corps also pays tribute to Kenneth Duremdes for his grand slam (25 years ago) at Ultapa stadium five years after winning his first championship for Crispa-Fayess (unsighted) and of PBA titles. His son, TJ Manotoc, will represent him in the ceremonies.

The awardees will be awarded trophies by Gaiscon B. Reyes.

Coach Baby Dalupan will personally hand the Baby Dalupan Trophy to the Coach of the Year that said current league officials are also expected to grace the occasion.

PUREFOODS' Peter June Simon (left), shown in this file photo chasing the loose ball with Sta. Lucia's Rolly Williams, is Mr. Quality Minutes.

Pimentel, Crucero rule youth chessfest

REGINO HEO JOEL PIMENTEL AND unbeaten Noel Crucero mastered their last three rivals to complete a sweep at their respective divisions in the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship Western Visayas leg at SM City Iloilo on Sunday.

Pimentel beat Kevin Mirano and John Fourteen in succession. He then outplayed John Ang in the final round to emerge solo winner with seven points in the junior division.

Crucero, the 70th ranked player in a field of 104 and who downed the lead with 16 others after four rounds, beat Lance Oren and Ronel Almajon before crushing Jomel Bengal in the seventh round to secure the kiddie crown with seven points.

Other awardees were Adelaide Institute of Univ. of St. La Salle (top female); 6-year-old Philip Estandar Jr. (youngest); Second Estrato (top 8-year-old); Bernel Balbuena Dipotencionglo; and SPED Integrated School for Exceptional Children and General Phils. Trust. (most represented school).

Pimentel and Crucero made the grand finals slated Nov. 8-9 at SM Megamall.

The other finalists are Veronica Loyola of UNLB and Angie Ibidiaca of Philippine Christian College-Cupa, who secured top spots in the top-notch battle for second and third places, respectively, in the junior division; and Uru and Jericho Cajucom of West Negros University-Bacolod, also second and third places, respectively, in the kiddies level.

Olympians too good for Saints

DEFENDING CHAMPION IST COLlegers whipped erstwhile solo leader St. Clare College-Caloocan, 100-66, in the 8th Maestro men's basketball tournament at the UE gym.

STANDINGS	W	L
St. Peter	4	1
AMA(C)	4	1
EAC-Cavite	3	1
UE	3	1
Mapua	3	1
Ateneo	3	1
Letran	3	1
Arellano	3	1
Adamson	2	2
Lyceum	2	2
Mapua-Cabuyao	2	2
Perpetual	2	2
Benilde	2	2
Lyceum-Batangas	2	2
San Sebastian	2	2
Olympians	1	3
Arellano-Cavite	1	3
Jose Rizal	1	3
Mapua-Malayan	1	3
Centro Escolar	1	3
Saints	1	3
Perpetual-Las Piñas	1	3
Lyceum-Manila	1	3
Letran-Bulacan	1	3
Jose Rizal-Manila	1	3
Arellano-Manila	1	3
St. Clare	0	4
Adamson-Cavite	0	4
Letran-Intramuros	0	4
Mapua-Makati	0	4
Ateneo-Cavite	0	4
Lyceum-Cavite	0	4
Adamson-Manila	0	4
Ateneo-Manila	0	4
Lyceum-Manila	0	4
Letran-Manila	0	4
Mapua-Manila	0	4
San Sebastian-Manila	0	4
Perpetual-Manila	0	4
Lyceum-Batangas	0	4
Jose Rizal-Manila	0	4
Arellano-Manila	0	4
St. Clare	0	4
Adamson-Cavite	0	4
Letran-Intramuros	0	4
Mapua-Makati	0	4
Ateneo-Cavite	0	4
Lyceum-Cavite	0	4
Adamson-Manila	0	4
Ateneo-Manila	0	4
Lyceum-Manila	0	4
Letran-Manila	0	4
Mapua-Manila	0	4
San Sebastian-Manila	0	4
Perpetual-Manila	0	4

Mike Tabongon, Mac Macalanan and five others scored in double figures as the Olympians hauled the Saints with a flurry of baskets right from the opening quarter to cruise to a 7-0 card.

Tabongon and Macalanan scored 16 points apiece for IST. Arnold Dungcan added 14 points, Ramon Maloya contributed 13, Darryl Mendoza had 12, Norman Bulos made 11 and Oscar Catacutan made 10 for the Olympians, who outscored the Saints in all four quarters.

St. Clare had 12 turnovers as it dropped into a three-way tie for the lead with AMA Computer and San Sebastian College-Cavite at 7-2.

SAC-Cavite crushed Centro Escolar University, 121-77, and Mapua San Sebastian College-Recoletos rig Ling-ling Pineg 81-64, in the other games.

The scores:

First Game

MCU 97—Antezi 18, Santos 11, Ramos 12, Bagan 9, Sasan 8, Jagil, Bautista 6, Domingo 0

PUP 84—Dela 19, Conde 8, Bolivar 8, Cuevas 7, Cruzada 7, Dipa 7, Magali

Quarter: 20-15, 38-33, 61-61, 97-84

Second Game

EAC 106—Calangin 16, Mendoza 16, Bongalon 14, Bishop 13, Medina 13, Dela 11, Cruzamon 10, Lindo 8, Santillan 6, Buenaagua 2, Ramirez 0, Bayrad 0, Ingalo 0

FEU 85—Mallari 20, Pontejos 15, Nival 10, Mesa 10, Tuano 7, A Dayrit 5, O'Connell 5, Chavez 3, Aquino 2, Sanvicente 1

Quarter: 20-14, 40-30, 59-47, 106-85

Belmonte snares 4th Tacloban win

TACLOBAN CITY—DIONESIO BELmonte Jr. scored this city's Mila Marathon 21K qualifying race for the fourth straight year, beating Mac-Allen Latoja by a mere three seconds on Sunday.

The 23-year-old runner from Ormoc City outsprinted Latoja in the final 100 meters to bag the leg championship prize of P10,000 with a time of one hour, 16 minutes and 46 seconds.

Latoja, of Carbalogan City, has to Belmonte for the third straight year.

Leyte's Elvern Parrinlet, runner-up to Belmonte in 2008, settled for third place in 1:16:25.

DIONESIO Belmonte Jr. and Irish Barquera (center) pose with (from left) Manila's Pia Cayetano, former Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla and Mila's Mayor Villareal during the awards rites.

Topping the distaff side was 20-year-old Irish Barquera, who clinched her third straight national finals ticket in 1:44:58.

Placing second and third were Michel Ann Asuncion (1:47:04) and Analyn Tegio (1:53:52), respectively.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's races scored 42K national finals berths ahead Nov. 30 in Manila.

Sen. Pia Cayetano, who also ran in the 5k category leg last July and in Naga City leg last week, placed fourth with a time of 1:32:07.

The top three finishers in the 5K fun run were Jessico Bacong (16:48), Arnold Tan (17:11) and Michael Aliagas (17:27) in the men's division, and Elyne Sanatos (18:20), Helen Ventura (20:37) and Christine Baloro (23:38) in the women's division.

Notre Dame fives keep hopes alive

NOTRE DAME OF GREATER MANILA scored twin wins over the weekend to keep their hopes alive in the Hills-sponsored Small Businesses Philippines Fraserville basketball tournament at the Xavier School gym.

Notre Dame boys five blanked Jose Rizal-Sto. Tomas/Lyceum of Batangas-Pateros, 20-6, for its fourth victory in five games in the MID division and swiped behind Group 6 leaders Manila School (4-0) and second-running La Salle Green Hills-A (3-1). Don Bosco dropped to 1-5.

Notre Dame then crushed San Beda/San Juan, 19-3, to clinch its second win in five outings in Fraserville 6. San Sebastian dropped to 1-3.

Antipolo lady 14-D stunned Don Bosco Mandaluyong 14-12, 44-34, in another Fraserville-A match.

Meanwhile, the Basketball Effectory and Scientific Training (Best) Center will open its recruiting session for its clinics aimed at forging Intermediate to Basketball, Levels 1-5); Xavier School (Levels 1-4); Acropolis, Bonifacio (Levels 1-3), and Marikiff Alabang (Levels 1-3).

Lady Pirates sweep WNCAA cage elims

GRAND SLAM SEEDING CUM COMplete a five-game sweep in Senior A while Philippine Women's University nursed within a win of surviving a shoot-for-bid in Senior B in the 39th WNCAA basketball tournament over the weekend at the SSC gym.

The Lady Pirates, getting 24 points from April Lozalbo, swapped World Citi Colleges, 100-52, to secure the top rank in Senior A. PCC dropped all its five matches and will take on third-placer Rizal Technological University in next Sunday's quarterfinal match.

EOU beat St. Francis of Assisi College, 76-62, to second cap at 3-2 while its victim ended with a 1-4 slate. SSMC bandes fourth ranked St. Scholastica's College (2-3) in the quarterfinals.

Host College of St. Benilde notched the No. 2 spot at 4-1 as it dealt St. Scholastica's a 90-63 beating.

PWU stopped Jubilee San Beda College shining, 77-56, to cap its mark at 5-0 while handing EACA its fifth defeat in a row. PWU was led by Beverly Anne Rodriguez who made 22 points.

Liga Pilipinas chase for championship berths on

LIAM TOLET (Cebu Cebuano)

(con—title on last three)

COMI—THE BATTLE FOR FINALS berths in the 2008 Smart Liga Pilipinas championship series kicks off today with the Cebu Wilms hosting the Liga-Barangay Bacolod for Games 1 and 2 at the Nivo Cebu Coliseum here.

The series courses in the Liga Cultural Center on Sept. 7-8 for Game Three and, if needed, Game Four.

A fifth and deciding game will be played in Cebu on Sept. 12, if necessary.

Mastering the Wilms are Ron Capati, Ritzi Bernal, Marlon Nance, Gerry Canas, Jaybird Rodriguez and Wenilson Enriquez.

Jeffrey Sanders, AJ Vergara, JR Estrada, Reuben Custodio and ex-pro Don Cuenca will power the Barakos.

"Liga won a convincing quarterfinal series against Olongapo and they are the team to beat in the semis," said Coach Raul Alcoseba. "We will just replicate our homestead advantage."

Regie Tan, the Wilms big mentor, is also aware of their opponents.

"Cebu is a very strong team, very organized and well-coached, a championship-caliber team," said Tan.

The other semifinal showdown between Tagaig and Misamis Oriental kicks off on Sept. 3, with the Balanga Global hosting the Matcons in Games 1 and 2 at the C.E Tingo gym.

Game 3 will be on Sept. 10 and if necessary, Game 4 on Sept. 11 at the Xavier gym in Cagayan de Oro. For Game 5, the series returns to Tagaig.

"We are happy to have made it in the semifinals after four tough legs and a tight quarterfinal series versus Bacolod," said Tagaig coach Jude Roque. "This will surely be another tough series since Misamis Oriental is one of the strongest teams in the league and has a deep bench."

Int'l Golf Show set Sept. 19

GOLF ENTHUSIASTS ARE IN FOR another three days of huge price discounts when the 13th Philippine International Golf Show, the largest running golf show in Asia, unfurls on Sept. 19-21 at the SMX Convention Center Hall 3 of the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Department of Tourism Undersecretary Cynthia Carrion will cue the once-a-month show and deliver a short speech during the opening ceremony with top officials of the organizing Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines expected to be in attendance.

Golf Show chair Stanley Rasos of Fusports said everyone's in the think of preparedness and he expects good results for all participants.

The Golf Show participants they solicited for the occasion include Aurora Enterprises, Absolute Marketing, Brat's Shoes Inc., Orient Properties Group, Dunlop Sportage (by Ian, Systems Sports Corporation, Multifocus Consolidated Inc., Gamer's Marketing Corporation, Golf King, Gallery Bahrain, Galleria International, Intl. Golf Depot, Kart Pinas, Living Innovations, Master Sports, Mar Basa's Formidable Trading Corp., Fusports Philippines Inc., Thailon's Group Inc., Tsunami's Supplies and Equipment, Wally Import Philippines, ECHO Photos, Executive Golf Philippines, Intan Golf, WS Sports Inc.

WE'RE NO. 1! Members of the School of the Holy Spirit Quezon City squad whoop it up after topping the first Looney Tunes World Quezon cheerleading competition at the Music Hall of SM Mall of Asia. SHS pocketed P20,000 in the one-moment that topped the routine, song-and-dance choreography presented by Warner Bros.

SPORTS

Federer stays perfect; Djokovic subdues foe

NEW YORK — ROGER FEDERer looked every bit a champion and stayed perfect at the US Open. Andy Roddick showed shades of returning form, too, on Sunday.

No longer No. 1, Federer beat Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 and breezed into the round of 16.

To win his first Grand Slam of the season, Federer needs to take his fifth straight title at Flushing Meadows. He has not lost a set in three matches, and entered his night flat after slogging a final, winning birthday down the line.

"I guess it's just nice to play well. Pretty simple," the No. 3 Federer said. "No complaints."

Third-seeded Novak Djokovic, the Australian Open champion, reached the fourth round with a tougher-than-expected victory over 30th-seeded Jarkko Marin Ollie and will next meet No. 32 Nicolay Davydenko of Spain for a quarterfinals berth.

Eighth-seeded Roddick, the last man to win the Open before Federer, beat No. 31 Andreas Seppi of Italy 6-2, 7-5, 7-6 (4).

Roddick will play No. 11 Fernando Gonzalez for a spot in the quarterfinals. Gonzalez, at 28 the oldest man left, beat Julien Benneteau of France 7-5, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-1.

Federer's next opponent is his 23-year Andreev of Russia, who topped No. 13 Fernando Verdasco of Spain 6-2, 6-4, 6-4. In other men's third-round matches, No. 5 Nikolay Davydenko eliminated fellow Russian Dmitry Tursunov, Lleyton-bourg qualifier Gilles Muller bulldozed a 6-7 (2), 7-6, 7-6 (5), 7-5 upset of No. 18 Nicolas Almagro, and Australian Open runner-up Jo-Wilfried Tsonga lost to No. 15 Tommy Robredo 7-6 (2), 6-2, 6-3.

The winners are a mixed about, and No. 2 Jelena Jankovic reached the quarterfinals by coming back to beat No. 21 Caroline Wozniacki 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Jankovic is among five women with a shot at making No. 1 in the rankings.

"It's a goal," Jankovic said, "but I want to win a Grand Slam."

Another woman in the chase for No. 1 — and also without a major championship title — is Olympic gold medalist Elena Dementieva, who beat Li Na of China 6-4, 6-1 and now faces No. 15 Flavia Schiavone.

Schnyder prevailed 6-0, 6-3, 6-3 against Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia, who ousted 2004 champ Svetlana Kuznetsova in the previous round.

Jankovic will meet No. 28 Nadia Petrova, who got past No. 12 Marion Bartoli of Italy 7-6 (2), 0-6, 6-1 in a match that lasted 3 hours, 5 minutes — believed to be the longest women's match, by time, in U.S. Open history.

"I didn't even really sweat," Kuznetsova said. "I could have played longer."

Muller looked as though he could have, too, even though his match against Almagro stretched beyond four hours.

Muller never had come back from a two-set deficit in his career before rising as to the second-round against Tommy Haas of Germany. Now he's done it twice in a row — despite missing a dozen lower points than Almagro, 107-175, and making 21 more unforced errors. And Muller broke serve only once all match, in the third game.

Muller is the only man from Luxembourg to play in a Grand Slam tournament in the 40-year Open era — and now the first man or woman from the country to reach the fourth round.

"I'm the first one actually to do everything. I mean, that's not my goal — to be the best in Luxembourg," he said.

Almagro provided the day's comic relief midway through their match. Thinking his shot had missed, Almagro grabbed a towel near the back wall to wipe his face. He then realized the ball was still in play and tried to scower, but lost the point to Muller.

Jankovic went into her trademark split early in the third set — realizing for a first against Wozniacki. She lost the point and stayed splayed on the court, and fans wondered whether she'd hurt herself.

But Jankovic bounced up, quickly finishing off her 19-year-old Danish opponent.

"My mom told me that I am losing a little bit of weight," Jankovic said. "I'm actually not losing weight. I'm just getting fitter, you know?"

Stepanek is among nine players to beat Federer this season, sweeping a pair of tiebreakers at Rome in May. But at 29 years old and seeded 20th, the eleven player left in the men's draw was no match for a player who seems to be on a mission.

Federer got broken for the only time in the first set, then broke back as love and held to win, to the third set. AP

ROGER FEDERER Gunning for his fifth straight title at Flushing Meadows

DJOKOVIC survives 4-hour battle

Sluman fires 67, tops First Tee tourney

PEBBLE BEACH, CALIFORNIA—JEFF Sluman won the First Tee Open for his second Champions Tour victory by closing with a 5-under 67 at Pebble Beach for a five-stroke victory over Fuzzy Zoeller and Craig Stadler on Sunday.

Sluman, a six-time U.S. PGA Tour winner who won the Bank of America Championship in June for his first Champions Tour title, had a 14-under 202 total. He opened with a 68 at Del Monte and shot a 66 on Saturday at Pebble Beach.

"I'm happy to finally be playing the kind of golf I know I would play out here," Sluman said. "It's been a struggle, but I'm glad to be feeling comfortable."

In 1992 at Pebble Beach, Sluman finished second in the U.S. Open and Pebble Beach Invitational Pro-Am.

Zoeller shot a 69 for his best Champions Tour finish since 2004. Stadler, the inaugural tournament winner in 2004, had a 71.

Sluman, who carded the day's low round, became the eighth Champions Tour player to win more than once.

"Golf is a game of ebbs and flows and it's going well right now," said Sluman, who earned $315,000 (euro214,000) from the $2.1 million (euro1.4 million) purse.

Fred Funk, playing ahead of Sluman, briefly tied the winner at 11-under after a birdie at the 16th hole. Sluman also birdied the 18th hole to move into a lead he never relinquished.

Funk stumbled and finished with a 71. He tied for fourth at 8-under with Chip Beck (69), Mark McNulty (69) and Phil Blackmar (73). Scott Simpson (68), the 2006 tournament winner, David Eger (71) and Steve Thomas (72) finished at 7-under.

Sluman posted his win with birdies on the 17th and 18th holes. AP

JOHNSON celebrates after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Pepsi 500 at Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, California.

Johnson notches third Nascar victory of season at Auto Club

FONTANA, CALIFORNIA—JIMmie Johnson overpowered the field Sunday night in the NASCAR Pepsi 500 at Auto Club Speedway, grabbing his third victory of the season.

The two-time reigning Cup champion was easily the class of the field at the Pepsi 500, leading 227 of the 250 laps on the 2-mile oval. He won the race at the former California Speedway for the second straight year and again gave order to points leader Ryan Busch and series runner-up Carl Edwards — the two former drivers in the series coming into this race — that he remains a serious contender for a third straight title.

Runner-up Greg Biffle had the next best car throughout the race, but he couldn't keep up with Johnson's No. 48 Chevrolet, finishing more than 2 seconds behind the winner.

"This race car was unbelievable," said Johnson, who has struggled at times this season, particularly on the bigger ovals. "We've been working hard to get it right. We've been burning the midnight oil, burning the wish at both ends, and it's paid off. We clinched [a spot in the Chase for the championship] and we got 10 more bonus points, which is important.

In February, Johnson led the most laps but lost the race when Edwards passed him with 23 laps to go. This time, nobody could touch Johnson, whose car was a cinderella from the start.

Time after time he built leads of between 5 and 12 seconds, only to see them erased by yellow flags. But it didn't faze Johnson, who just rebuilt the margin after the race restart.

On a pit stop on lap 162, during a caution period, Johnson took 4 tires and used himself to stretch on the restart, trailing five drivers who had made taken two trips on the stop.

After the restart on lap 166, Johnson was fourth after one lap, second after two trips around the 2-mile oval and back to the lead on lap 168.

On the next pit stop, Johnson again came out of the pits in sixth, and, again, he rocketed back into the lead in just three laps. AP

Faldo names Poulter, Casey as wild cards for Europe Ryder Cup team

ELTRIBACLES, SCOTLAND — IAN Poulter and Paul Casey were chosen Monday as wild-card picks for Europe's Ryder Cup team.

Europe captain Nick Faldo made his announcement shortly after the end of the Johnnie Walker Championship.

"I picked two because he is obviously a very determined guy and I love his attitude and obviously what he did at the British Open," Faldo said. "The hard- nine he played there was with the intention to win. He had the emotional feeling and was not playing to finish second."

Poulter, who ended up second behind Padraig Harrington at the British Open, could have finished in the top 10 and earned an automatic berth at the Johnnie Walker Championship, but he skipped the event.

"Maybe I should have gone to play Gleneagles, but I stuck by my word," Poulter said from the Deutsche Bank Championship, where he missed the cut. "Looking back at the time I made the right decision for me, but it was no difficult to disease the right thing to do and it's obviously been a very difficult decision to try to get across."

Faldo said he had not yet informed Casey of his selection because the Englishman was on a plane back to Europe.

"It's to guess, that has been playing absolutely the best through the summer and finished off second and I was kind of waiting for his putting to come around," Faldo said. "In the last few weeks he's been very close to being No. 1 in putting averages each week. So that's been very important."

He added that other factors in choosing Casey were his win in the 2006 World Match Play Championship and his good record in Ryder and Walker Cups. AP

Wilson tops Detroit Indy Grand Prix

DETROIT — ENGLISH ROGER JUSTIN Wilson raced to his first IndyCar Series victory by edging Helio Castroneves in the Detroit Indy Grand Prix on Sunday.

Castroneves led for the majority of the road race on the Belle Isle course, holding the top spot for 53 of the 87 laps but was penalized for blocking Wilson and was forced by rule to relinquish the lead with fewer than 20 laps to go.

Series leader Scott Dixon of New Zealand finished fifth. That result, coupled with Castroneves' strong showing, means the IndyCar championship will be decided at next month's final race at the Chicagoland track.

The odds of winning the series title still favor Dixon, who entered the final race 43 points ahead of Castroneves. Dixon needs to finish eighth or better even if Castroneves wins his second title and first since his rookie year of 2003.

His lead was seen at 20 points.

WILSON

ASUFA Powell-Bash on winning track

Fraser beaten; Powell rules 100m

GATESHEAD, ENGLAND—BRItish champion crowned women's 100m champion Shelly-Ann Fraser of Jamaica was beaten at the IAAF Grand Prix here on Sunday by Lauryn Williams while compatriot Asafa Powell was the men's event in 9.87sec.

American Williams dashed 11.24 in beating Fraser, who managed 11.29, and then added the 200m race, winning in 22.65sec.

However the main attraction of the meeting was Britain's Christine Ohuruogu, the country's only athletics gold medal-list in Beijing, who easily won her 400m race in 51.27.

Ohuruogu did much better than her compatriots Phillips Idowu, who conspicuously missed up the competition.

He would only manage fourth place with 16.42m, far from his best performance to the world title year of 17.38m.

Powell's 9.87sec was well outside the world record of 9.69sec held by compatriot Usain Bolt, who won the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay at Olympics in China.

American Tyson Gay won the 200m race in 20.26sec. AFP

BUSINESS

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

IN THIS ISSUE
Coastal Power wins Basilan deal /B2
Insurance firms to raise premiums /B6

Peso falls to 12-month low of 46.29 to $1

Traders cite strengthening dollar, rising crude prices

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY SLID TO THE 46 LEVEL TO HIT A 12-month low against the dollar due to a fresh uptick in global oil prices and the strengthening of the greenback against major currencies.

The local currency shed P0.303 to finish at 46.29 from Friday's closing rate. It ended near the intra-day low of 46.301, its depreciation was compared by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' unloading of dollars at the spot foreign exchange market, currency traders said.

"There's risk aversion particularly hitting the Philippine peso and other emerging market currencies," said Roxie Vergara, treasurer at some unnamed Land Bank of the Philippines.

"It's due to a combination of heavy crude trades with the Japanese yen, then there's the weakening of the British pound and the euro versus the US dollar," he said.

Vergara was referring to a shift in investor appetite to the yen, the currency of Asia's wealthiest economy, given the weakening of the currencies of emerging markets in the region.

The Japanese currency yesterday appreciated by nearly 1 percent to 107.7 yen

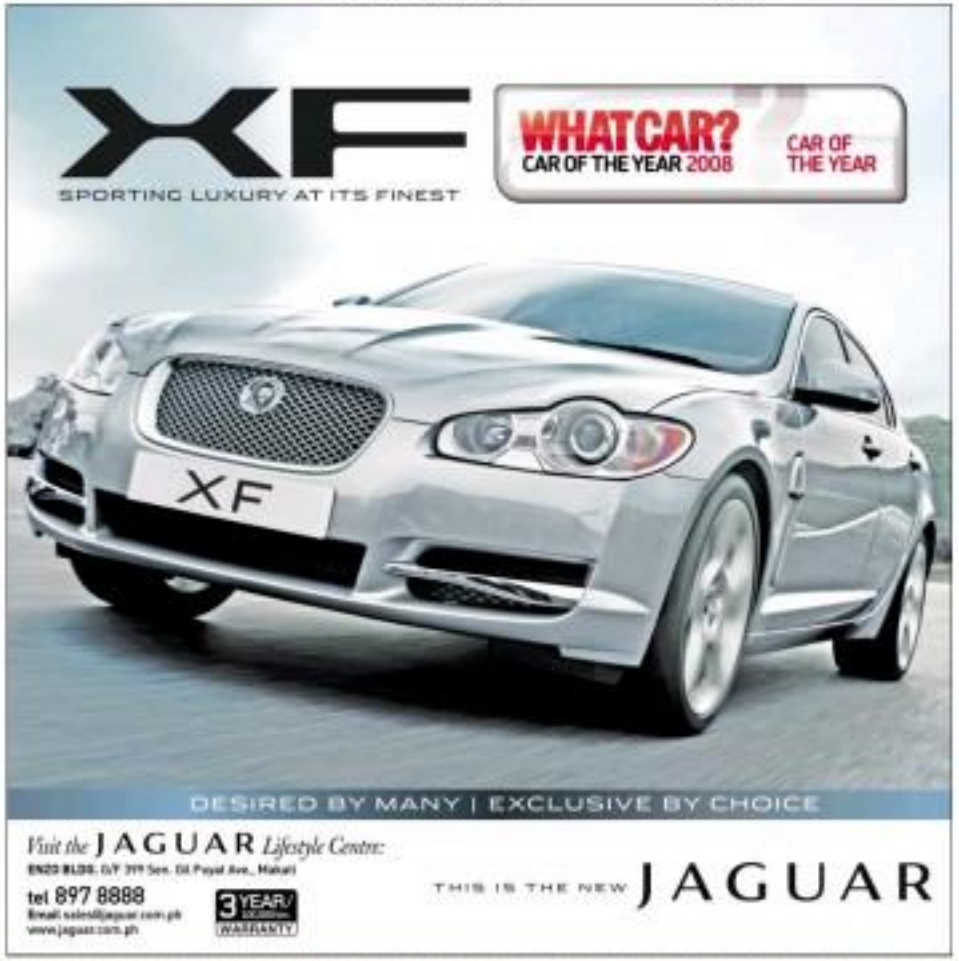
PESO/B4

Gov't bent on Petron, PNOC-EC sale

THE GOVERNMENT IS EVEN MORE bent on privatizing shares in Petron Corp. and PNOC Exploration Corp. to support economic pump-priming given the country's sluggish economic growth in the first semester, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said.

Teves said reporters at the sidelines of a recent Landbank event that for every percentage point decline in gross domestic product in a given year, revenues would decline by P18 billion. However, he said the Department of Finance has not lowered its revenue

GOV'T/B2



Banks' soured credit card exposure going down

By Doris C. Dorlaer

CREDIT CARD DELINQUENCY IN the Philippines declined in March, with the banking sector's soured credit card exposure seen as only 10 centavos out of every P1 in receivables compared to about 14 centavos a year ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

"Has developed as the banking system's credit card receivables remained a double-digit growth rate of 10 percent or more as of end-March to P115.4 billion as end-March.

Credit card lending is a key component of consumer lending, a growing source of revenue for many banks.

The other major components, auto lending, declined by 1 percent at end-March to P73 billion from a year-ago level. The decline was attributed by the central bank to certain changes in the financial reporting of auto loans. Banks are now asked to segregate loans granted to individuals from those extended to corporations.

Credit card receivables in the first quarter this year fell by 0.6 percent from the previous quarter to date ended December 2007, reflecting the slowdown in economic growth this year.

Soured credit card exposure, however, declined by 28.8 percent in the first quarter from the level in the previous quarter.

Analysts said banks might have become more prudent in issuing credit cards. Also, they said consumers might have become more responsible in managing credit card debts, cognizant of the consequences of having a bad credit history.

Universal and commercial banks accounted 85 percent of the credit card business in terms of volume of receivables. Subsidiaries of universal and commercial banks held 14.4 percent, while thrift banks held the remaining 0.1 percent.

Credit card lending accounted for about 5.4 percent of the banking system's total loan portfolio.

In the meantime, nonperforming auto loans rose to 5.7 percent of total lending from 5.1 percent a year ago.

In terms of volume, there was also a 14.2-percent decline in auto lending at end-March from end-December level. This brought down the ratio of auto loans in the banks' total loan portfolio to 3.3 percent from 4 percent in the previous quarter.

NOTICE OF AUCTION

(Please be advised that Camp John Hay Golf Club, Inc. will be holding an Auction Sale of the following assets on)

8 September 2008
Friday, 10:00 a.m.
1st Floor Pine Room
Camp John Hay Golf Club
Loakan Road, Baguio City

* Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 10:00 a.m.

For further inquiries and updates, you may contact the following telephone numbers on 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.:

Thank you.

(signature)
Chief Executive Officer

BDO to raise ₱5B via preferred share offering

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

BANCO DE ORO UNIBANK INC., THE country's second biggest lender in terms of assets, is raising P5 billion via a preferred share offering in order to expand assets and support the bank's expansion.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, BDO said its board had approved the issuance of up to 500 million series 8 preferred shares at a par value of P10 a share.

The preferred shares will be perpetual, voting and convertible into common shares in three years from its issue date. The shares will also be noncumulative, nonparticipating, does not have preemptive rights (as the right granting shareholders the first crack to buy a new issue of stock) and would qualify as Tier 1 capital.

Tier 1 capital is considered a core measure of a bank's financial strength from a regulator's point of view. It consists of shareholders' equity but may also include preferred stock that is noncumulative and noncumulative and retained earnings.

The proposed dividend rate for the preferred shares was set at an indicative fixed rate of 6.5 percent per year.

The bank still held the offering between September and November.

In another development, the bank also received the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for the merger of its two wholly owned insurance brokerage units—BDO Insurance Brokers Inc. and ESC Insurance Brokerage Inc. (ESIB). BDO Insurance will be the surviving entity. All of ESIB's assets and liabilities will be entered and assumed by BDO Insurance Brokers Inc.

The merger of the insurance broker units is in line with the bank's policy of streamlining its organization and operations, BDO corporate information officer Elmer Serrano said.

Sewer RATS

BREAKTIME

Conrado E. Bautista III

THIS ONE IS GERMAN TO SOME TEMPERS at the rocket Department of Tourism flying to another galaxy.

While tourism department officials and staff are slathering themselves to build up the tourism industry in this country, the Bureau of Customs is going the other way.

It seems the BOC is trying its darn best to destroy the industry.

Last February, a BOC team called RATS, or the "rats after the smugglers," issued an order for the seizure of a ship.

A group headed by Esteban Talatagod Jr., who was among the first groups to develop Boracay converted the vessel into the country's first ever cruise ship.

This is a country of more than 7,000 islands. And we do not have a cruise ship? We better believe it, Garybuy!

The Talatagod group renamed the ship M/V "7107 Islands Cruise," apparently so takeoff from the DOT's strategy to promote tourism spots here to island paradise.

Talatagod, an exploration who-knows, RATS filed a seizure warrant against the ship about seven months ago, accusing the Talatagodi group of evading taxes and duties.

Talatagodi told the his group was still negotiating with the ship's original owner, an English lines called C and C Marine, for his group to buy the ship.

To appraise the ship in the country according to Talatagodi, his group needed the approval of the Marina, or the Maritime Industry Authority.

What if Marina said "no?" Well, the group would use the ship in another country.

Thus, the group believed that the payment of taxes and duties would come after the approval from Marina. Hindi ba? Hindi? After?

This was the line of argument that the Talatagodi group presented to the BOC quasi court that conducted hearings on the issue filed by RATS.

Damn what...the BOC quasi court overruled RATS. The rules said RATS had 15 days to appeal such a decision. Either that, or it should lift the seizure order.

Lo and behold—one, two, three, four months have passed, and RATS sat on the case. Upon now, the vessel is still in limbo.

Result: The Talatagodi group incurred huge losses all that time, to the tune of P22 million in overhead expenses alone, not to mention the income lost during those seven months in the absence from RATS.

Despite the plea of the group for mercy, neither Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales nor Finance Secretary Margarito Teves lifted a finger.

Today the "seizure order" of RATS has not been lifted. The ship stayed at the Manila port, doing nothing, except piling up docking fees at the expense of the new Filipino investors. Nobody can say if the BOC only wanted revenues away the ship to the owners.

In the meantime, the Talatagodi group is still bleeding.

That is the kind of support that the DOT is getting from this core administration. Thank you!

+++

YESTERDAY, Southeast Asian Airlines, or Seair, inaugurated its route-a-week flights between Manila and Batangas City in Eastern Samar.

It must admit that I have a soft heart for this province. For one, it was among the poorest provinces in this country for a long time.

Also, its governor was my colleague in media, Gov. Ben Evardone, who used to be a newsman.

From what I gathered, Evardone took all of less than a month to negotiate the first flights to his province.

Now, the country's flag carrier, Philippine Airlines, is following suit with its PAL Express flights to serve the same route.

The airline service will certainly boost the tourism potential of Eastern Samar.

For one, the province could not ride on the domestic tourists boom (thank you, DOT), despite its miles and miles of immaculate beaches, unreached forests, beautiful sea harvests and friendly people.

It is about time, too! Susie and Pal, perhaps one is potential in Eastern Samar. It, well, "graduated" recently from the "Club 10," comprised of the country's richest provinces.

In fact, the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism reported last year a steady decline in poverty incidence in the province.

Evardone has often bemoaned in news people that he had dreamed of developing the tourism industry in his province.

I can see how his efforts are finally paying off, hopefully. The Manila-going already had a head start. It is fast developing an island in the province into a world-class resort. Soon, with the airline service, other not casual groups will follow. I swear it.

Aboitiz Power to join road show in NY, London

By Abigail L. Ho

ABOITIZ POWER CORP. WILL PARTICIPATE in a road show in New York and London to update institutional investors on its first half results and present its outlook for the rest of the year, as well as its strategies moving forward.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Aboitiz Power corporate secretary M. Jasmine Oporto said the company would be joining the Deutsche Bank Global Emerging Markets Conference in New York on Sept. 3-5 and the Deutsche Bank Philippine Corporate Day in London on Sept. 8-9.

The company posted a net income of P2.06 billion in the first half of the year, 64 percent higher than year-ago level. Recurring income in the first semester reached P2.19 billion, 150 percent higher than the P924 million last year.

However, the company posted a consecutive net loss of P122 million, due mainly to foreign exchange losses of P268 million brought about by the revaluation of dollar-denominated loans and placements of some of its subsidiaries. There was also a reversal of a P345-million provision made by an associate company due to an arbitration award.

Its power generation business accounted for the bulk of Aboitiz Power's profit in the first six months at P1.32 billion, up 162 percent from the P468 million posted in the same period last year.

The strength of the generation business was attributed to the first new acquisition during the first half. The bulk of the P655 million in earnings from new purchases came from the 300-megawatt (MW) Magat hydropower plant in Isabela and the 232-MW Irong coal-fired power plant in Misamis Oriental.

In the first six months, Aboitiz Power sold 806 gigawatt hours (GWh) of power, from only 263 GWh in 2007.

On the distribution side, Aboitiz Power Chabacal saw a net income of P767 million, up 15 percent from last year's P668 million. Electricity sales also grew from 1,211 GWh in 2007 to 1,332 GWh this year.

Aboitiz Power is organized to acquire power assets, both in the generation and distribution sectors, to further boost its portfolio.

DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Project	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract*	Cost of Bid Documents
		Source of Fund: DBP Fund	
Supply and Delivery of Air-Conditioning Systems for DBP Head Office & Branches	9 units	₱10,000,000.00	₱5,000.00

*Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at their opening.

Acquired Bids Bidding: Fifty Five (55) calendar days upon receipt of Purchase Order

Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Pre-Bidding Conference	September 9, 2008 (Tuesday) at 9:00 a.m.	6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of September 17, 2008 (Wednesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals	September 17, 2008 (Monday) at 9:30 a.m.	6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines and must have been issued a license Authorized Vehicle Manufacturer Dealer for at least three (3) years. Only those from bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo Post-Qualification stage if same is found to determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was recommended through during post-qualification procedure.

Interested parties may download these forms at www.philgeps.gov.ph and at the Government Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Prospective bidders may secure the bid documents upon ELIGIBILITY Requirement forms from the Bids and Awards Committee, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

The prospective bidders are advised to check the Bank's website and the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) for any bid bulletin and announcements regarding this project.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 818-9511 loc. 2555.

(signature)
Bids and Awards Committee

BAC-Resi 2, 2008

Coastal Power wins Basilan deal

COASTAL POWER DEVELOPMENT Corp. has won the bidding for the contract to supply power to Basilan Electric Cooperative Inc.

The deal is expected to result in about P80 million in yearly savings for National Power Corp.

"Coastal Power's price represents annual savings of more than P80 million from Napocor's operating cost because of increased efficiency. This will reduce subsidies and improve our organization's financial position," Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said in a statement.

Under the agreement, Coastal Power will supply Basilan with 11.8 megawatts (MW) of dependable capacity at P5.1 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) starting 2010.

"By signing this agreement, we are guarantee that there will be a significant improvement in the quality and quality of electricity supply for residential and business sectors in Basilan. The increase will allow Basilan to meet current and potential demand 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at a competitive price," Basilan president Ismael Bass said.

The deal between Basilan and Coastal Power was facilitated by Industrial Power Group Corp., a unit of the World Bank.

Jesse Ang, IPG resident representative for the Philippines, said this deal would benefit almost 330,000 people, more than half of whom would gain access to electricity for the first time.

IPG is working on developing agreements and a regulatory framework to attract private sector capital and expertise to power generation in remote islands.

The government—through Napocor, the Department of Energy and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.—in 2004 tasked the IPG to set up transaction advisor for Napocor's Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG).

Napocor is now pushing for the development of renewable energy and microgrid power grids under the SPUG as this is one of the ways to make the rates here more viable.

Del Callar earlier said Napocor was aiming at reducing subsidiary power subsidies by at least 36 percent, or P1 billion, a year. This amount could then be channeled to other investments or to enabling electricity. —Abigail L. Ho

Gov't bent ...

From page B1

target for this year.

He said the side of the government's 40-percent stake in Petron and another 40 percent in PNOC-EC should be completed by November or December. He added that the privatization of Meralco, which would be handled by the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, should be ahead of that of PNOC-EC by a few weeks.

"So -ok privatization, we'll be on track. Because of the performance of the Philippine economy, it might have an effect on revenue performance in the second semester. So that's why we're looking at the non-tax [revenues]," Teves said.

The government is targeting to raise P1.225 billion in non-tax revenues, or about 16.2 percent of expected gross domestic product, on assumption that the economy would grow by at least 5.5 percent next year. Out of those revenues, about P59 billion is expected to come from privatization.

Doris C. Dorlaer

Peso falls ...

From page B1

from the previous day's 106.65 against the dollar. Since the start of the year, the yen has gained by more than 4 percent against the greenback. On the other hand, the peso has been depreciated by nearly 11 percent versus the US dollar since the start of the year, making it Asia's second worst performing currency next to the South Korean won, which has tumbled by over 14 percent.

Stocks close lower

From page B1

Sixty-seven issues declined, 24 advanced and 38 ended unchanged. Turnover fell to P5 billion from P5.237 billion on Friday.

Investors are exhibiting cautiousness as they await the impact of Hurricane Gustav on global oil prices," Harley Go of Investment Securities told Dow Jones Newswires.

Dealers said the market is likely to remain in a trading band of between 3,600 and 3,700 points. —RTT

Oversubscribed treasury bills fetch lower rates

By Michelle V. Borres

THURSDAY BILL RATES YESterday fell as banks assembled for short-term government securities, bidding more than what the government had set for the offering.

The 182-day bills booked 6.45% percent, 0.7 basis points lower than the 6.481 percent seen in the previous auction for the six-month debt instruments.

The rate for the 364-day bills hit 6.745 percent, down by 10.5 basis points from the previously recorded rate of 6.91 percent.

The decline in short-term interest rates came about despite the recent move of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to further raise its key policy rates by 25 basis points, with its overnight borrowing now standing at 6 percent.

National Treasurer Roberto Tan said the 25-basis-point hike in the borrowing rate has already been factored in by banks way before it was actually implemented by the BSP.

"The drop in the rates was also influenced by the Supreme Court, which ruled that deposits to the central bank should be covered by the 20-percent final withholding tax, just like other fixed income instruments, such as government securities.

"There has been some shift to government securities after the decision for 0.06% (reverse repurchase agreements) to be covered by the 20-percent final withholding tax," Tan said in a briefing after yesterday's auction.

In compliance with the court decision, the BSP issued Circular No. 639 that mandates the imposition of the 20% which would be deducted on each maturity date and remitted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Tenders for the 182-day bills reached P6.552 billion, making the six-month securities oversubscribed. The government accepted only P3 billion worth of bids for the 182-day bills, thus simply meeting what was stated in its borrowing program.

Bids for the 364-day bills amounted to P12.445 billion, more than four times higher than the government's debt offering of only P3 billion.

The Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted only P3 billion worth of bids for the one-year debt instruments.

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Ayala Land to expand into leisure development

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PROPERTY HEAVYWEIGHT AYALA Land Inc. (ALI) is considering to expand into the leisure segment, unfazed by selective buying by home buyers during these of an economic slowdown.

"I think it's (leisure segment) a good area to be because we have a strong platform," ALI president Jaime Ayala said.

Aseagas Cove is ALI's upcoming 350-hectare leisure development in Batangas, showcasing selling lofts and features both a mountain retreat and seaside resort.

Ayala said ALI was considering Palawan, Boracay and Bohol as prospective sites for its expansion in the leisure sector.

"We want to expand and we are looking for the right projects," he said.

In the first half, Aseagas Cove generated P381 million in revenues from 455 booked units and deals, down 8 percent year on year.

Aseagas Cove's seasonal terrain makes a wide variety of residential options possible.

The clubhouse is the signature neighborhood of the entire Aseagas development and is nested in the most scenic location of its elevation of 15 to 50 meters above sea level and commanding views of the beach, Balibi Bay and the Tagaytay mountain ranges.

A special area of the clubhouse called "My Park" has lots with backyards that connect with a one-hectare urban park, giving residents a sense of having their own private park right outside their doorstep.

Another option is the Mango Grove, which features large, mature mango trees. Most of the cove, green valleys, the Beach Club, and Nature Camp can be seen from this orange point. The Mango Grove will also have its own playground and picnic facilities.

Peso at year's low

WALL STREET HAD A PRETTY GOOD month and a good week especially when the government revised second-quarter GDP up from 1.9 percent to 3.3 percent. Economists were expecting 2.5 percent to 3.3 percent point to a healthy economy. However, $10 to $11 billion in the figures were buoyed by a $90-billion stimulus package, the effect of which has not yet worn off. On Friday, the market went into reverse after hearing that personal income had declined by 0.7 percent, the biggest monthly decline in 3 years. Personal spending increased by 0.2 percent but only because of higher prices. Positive or, we should report, smaller than dour declination of the economy.

Other disturbing news on Friday was the upgrade of Hurricane Gustav toward the US Gulf Coast, where it should hit by Sunday. The rigs are now better protected and should be able to weather the storm without major damage. Any spike to $120 or above should prove temporary.

Lastly, Dell was a major disappointment to the market as Michael Dell had promised that he would renew the company's growth. In a way he succeeded because sales topped analysts' expectations, but he did so by cutting prices so aggressively that net profits fell 17 percent and after hours the shares dropped 8.7 percent. This dragged down Cisco, Intel and IBM.

The Banxicot news started badly after a takeover bid by a Russian Bank for Lehman Brothers was denied. All 3 left-liner Fitch said it might cut its rating and Credit Suisse cut its 12-month price target and forecast that it would post a third-quarter loss of 86 cents a share. JP Morgan, which has $1.21 billion of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac preferred stock, said its value had halved. There was speculation that the two giant mortgage companies might wind up being nationalized, in which case the common shares would probably be worthless. A number of large banks owe $30 billion of preferred stock, through Fannie, Freddie and $3 billion worth of these and six-month bills, which might see it through until the end of 2009.

The Fed announced the failure of its 30th bank this year, Integrity Bank of California. It was promptly taken over by Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC), which guaranteed all deposits, including those over $100,000. The number of banks on the Fed's watchlist has increased from 90 to 117. The cost to the FDIC will be $250 million to $350 million. Small banks are safe but when about another three?

In the rumours of no large bank, the Fed expressed concern about twin fears of greater inflation risks and a slowdown in the economy that could retard growth. The Fed has lowered its economic growth forecast for the second half of 2008 and into 2009-10 hopes for a pickup in the second half of 2009 and expects inflation to decline as economic growth slows. However, its warned that the stresses in financial markets have not yet eased. Most people feel that the Fed will keep rates unchanged for the rest of the year but 25 percent see betting that it will raise rates by a quarter point.

In Australia, Macquarie Group fell 6.7 percent to its lowest in almost four years as the company was downgraded by UBS. "The upcoming environment remains difficult and people are expecting another round of write-offs to come out of the investment banks. The property sector remains weak and we expect continued downward revaluations of property assets over upcoming periods."

Japan is in no better shape and with property values declining, the number of companies going bankrupt has doubled from a year ago. Towards stubborn woes, Japan's inflation rate exceeded 2 percent for the first time in 10 years as consumer prices rose 2.4 percent in July. Household spending fell 0.5 percent last month and the rate of jobs to applicants dropped for a sixth month. Europe is no better faring, stocks of emerging-market countries.

Gross indicated that it might allow investors to sell bonds that can be swapped for shares in an effort to drive equity value and support the stock market, down 32 percent last week. Since the announcement, the 420 point index has picked up.

Europe is also struggling with the German DAX down 2 percent and the UK faring even worse as can be seen by the pound declining against every currency. Pretty soon, my problem might be almost worthless and I will have to go back to my job as a skating instructor in the thrill of Asia.

The local scandal has been excellent despite foreign selling, which disappointed on Friday because of a large buying order for TEL. Supporting the market has been a number of buybacks from ALI, MBH, MGI, SLI, YLL, FL, BMC, FDC, URC, IM, 3 and BDAMS. Foreign brokers have wanted to sell the leaders subject to buybacks and MBG has again been the main target. There were downgrades or price-cuts for PPH and EG.

As expected, the central bank raised interest rates by a quarter-point to 6 percent. But this was not enough to prevent the peso from weakening on Friday. Our central bank faces the same problems as other Asian and many more because inflation is over 12 percent.

Moody's has given Metrobank subordinated notes the same rating as they give deposits—Baa1.

POLOMOLOK WATER DISTRICT
National Highway, Pol-Dos Cos

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Polomolok Water District will apply for approved Budget for 2008 intended to cover the cost of the following projects/activities/contracts: [illegible] is inviting eligible contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Duration	Bid Security	Cost of Bid Documents
Procurement of Engineering Consulting Services for Detailed Engineering and Preparation of Bidding Documents, Procurement Assistance, Construction Supervision, Testing & Commissioning of Deep Well Pumps, Motors & Accessories for Barangay Cannery, Barangay Crossing Rubber and Barangay Glamang	P[illegible]	[illegible]	P[illegible]	P[illegible]

Duration of the Project: [illegible]

Funding Source: [illegible]

Mode of Procurement: [illegible]

2. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from [illegible] to [illegible].

3. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from [illegible] to [illegible] from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of [illegible] pesos (P[illegible]). It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System and the website of the Polomolok Water District, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

4. Bidders should be eligible contractors as defined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and must have completed, within the period specified in the Philippine Bidding Documents, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Philippine Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

5. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before [illegible]. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in Item 1 above.

6. Bid opening shall be on [illegible] at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity.

7. The Polomolok Water District reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any minor defect therein, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

8. For further information, please refer to:

Engr. CECILIA MIRASOL, MD
BAC Chairman

(PNO) Sept. 2, 2008

BUSINESS

State-subsidized rice finds its way to the poor

By Amy R. Remo

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) started selling more subsidized rice in Metro Manila, exclusively in Tindahan Natin outlets with identified Family Access Card beneficiaries.

In a statement, NFA Administrator Jessup B Navarro said that the sale of P18.25-a-kilo rice would initiate insertion of poor households that they would be able to maximize the benefits of the government's rice subsidies and other hunger-mitigating programs.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development handles the issuance of the family access cards to qualified Metro Manila residents.

According to the NFA, rice to be delivered to Tindahan Natin outlets would be based on the number of PAC beneficiaries in the area. Each family is allowed to buy 2 kg of rice a day.

There are currently 1,426 Tindahan Natin outlets in Metro Manila, estimated to each serve at least 250 PAC beneficiaries, or a total of at least 356,500 families.

With an average of six members per household, covering only the currently-still directly benefit 2.14 million family members, the NFA said.

In the provinces, Navarro said the sale of NFA rice in Tindahan Natin outlets would continue.

Insurance firms to raise premiums

By Michelle V. Rama

With inflation at record levels, new taxes said to come at a bad time

A NUMBER OF NONLIFE INSURANCE companies will be forced to increase premiums charged to clients because of a regulation imposing new taxes on them, the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association said.

"Some companies may have to increase their premiums on product lines with high losses," Pias said in a statement. "This will mean the consumer will again have to pay more. The timing is bad considering that all of us are reeling from the increase in prices of basic commodities."

Pias made the statement in reaction to Bir Revenue Memorandum Circular 39-2008, which imposes additional taxes on the insurance industry.

The group particularly opposes the imposition of 1% worth of documentary stamp tax (DST) on certificates of insurance, which show proof of insurance coverage. This is on top of the DST on premium collections.

Pias said the DST on certificates of insurance will adversely affect efforts to promote microinsurance among the poor. Imposing P15 worth of tax would defeat the purpose of selling cheap insurance coverage to poor families.

"The industry sells accident insurance with minimal amounts of cover for students and travelers," Pias said. "The premiums on these plans can be as little as P19."

BMC 38-2008 is an amended version of BMC 30-2008. The original circular imposed higher tax liabilities. The Bir was forced to issue it down following complaints from the life and nonlife insurance industries.

The Bir, however, did not omit the provisions of the circular that requires the imposition of P15 worth of DST on insurance certificates.

One of the provisions of the original circular that the Bir amended was the 12-percent VAT on health and accident insurance. The new circular instead imposed a 5-percent sales tax on these types of insurance.

Another provision amended was the one excluding commissions of selling agents from the list of business costs, which are deductible from taxable income. In the amended version of the circular, the Bir allowed commissions of sales agents to be deducted from taxable income.

The amendments were made after insurance firms brought their complaints to the Department of Finance, another agency of the Bir. The DOF then asked the Bir to seek a compromise with insurance firms.

Pias said it appreciated the Bir's move to amend some of the provisions of the original circular. But the group said it would be best if the Bir would not issue a circular imposing new taxes on the insurance industry at all.

The Bir, however, earlier said the circular did not impose new taxes. Instead, it only clarified certain vague provisions of the Tax Code, under which the said taxes are required.

Agriculture ahead of industry

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

IT IS SAID THAT AGRICULTURE IS usually behind industry, and that farmers are less competent than industrialists.

We will not debate this contention here. But we will say that the truth depends on what area of endeavor is being discussed. For now, we will limit ourselves to an anthropology area where it is clear that agriculture is ahead of industry.

An Inward Foreign Manifest (IFM)—which lists the products to be imported, the ship used and date of arrival—is a key tool in preventing smuggling. This is because advance information is obtained on products that may not have the proper documents necessary for legitimate shipments, such as import permits.

With IFMs, smuggling is more easily detected. But if the Bureau of Customs were to be the only agency that would have access to IFMs, then there would be no way to prevent customs personnel from connivng with importers to smuggle in imported products.

Annual losses

From 2002 to 2007, an average of $47.7 billion and $58.3 billion in annual imports were recorded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the National Statistics Office (NSO), respectively. The Bureau of Customs meanwhile reported only $43.5 billion during the period.

There is a difference of about $14 to $15 billion a year—a pretty estimate of the scale of smuggling operations being carried out in the country.

In our commentary that appeared on June 27, 2008, we estimated annual government revenue losses to range from P117 billion to P123 billion.

These losses amount to more than a third of the P374 billion in expanded value-added taxes collected in 2007.

In 2004, the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Anti-Smuggling Cases—along with Alyansa Agrikultura, Federation of Philippine Industries and Bai Tinde Alliance as private sector representatives—actually formed the BOC to provide IFMs to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry. But when Cusi was abolished, access to IFMs was likewise terminated. Smuggling subsequently increased.

Last April, three years and eight months after Cusi was abolished, another multisectoral body was formed. Called the Pera Transparency Alliance (Pera) and chaired by Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, the Alyansa successfully worked with other groups to provide the Bir and DTI access to IFMs. Here is where agriculture is ahead of industry.

While the Alyansa is happy that agriculture's needs in this area are now being addressed, it is still concerned over the welfare of industry. For it is because, when farmers' dollars run out to buy imports, they look to the harvest of farmland, they look to industry for jobs. But these jobs may not be there because rampant smuggling is slowly killing industry.

Globally competitive

The government can make the private sector to be globally competitive. But if the bureaucracy is itself not globally competitive, it does not have the moral ascendancy to demand this. Just as private corporations benchmark their performance against their counterparts abroad (and some have been known the lure, such as Toyota management in Baguio and Thaco in Cebu), the government should likewise benchmark its bureaucracy against those of other countries.

Another way of benchmarking is to compare services among different services within the same bureaucracy. In the area of IFM access, we still examine how agriculture has fared better than industry.

Last June 5, three years and eleven months after IFM access was denied to the DA and DTI, Teves instructed the BOC to reinstate the two agencies' access. IFMs. Completed IFMs were supposed to be provided to the DA and DTI every working day for the DA, things are going smoothly—the process has been started and progress is being made.

This is not so for the DTI. As of Aug. 27, or two months and 17 days after the DA got started, the DTI has yet to receive its first IFM. It is hoped that, by today, this problem will have been resolved.

Recent history

But the DTI is gain access to IFMs, it should first sign a memorandum of agreement (MOU) with the BOC. The DTI first showed a "SIGN in Order" to interchange for Import Monitoring" with BOC, which it signed on June 13, 2007.

The trade and industry department also presented a letter dated Sept. 26, 2007 from a BOC official to the Director of ITTs Bureau of Import Services, stating that, "... we shall effect the advance learned Foreign Manifest System and provide your office accordingly."

Given the above, and the fact that the information exchange is between two government agencies, the DTI believed that a new MOA was unnecessary. Nevertheless, they submitted such an agreement to BOC last Aug. 6, Twenty-one days later, the BOC has not been signed, and the DTI still has no access to IFMs.

If BOC were as helpful to industry as to agriculture, the Customs officials should have acted on the MOA immediately. That this did not happen indicates that, in this area, the government bureaucracy is not globally competitive.

It is hoped that the BOC service to industry would be matched by its response to the agriculture sector.

This way, the fight for fair trade can succeed. Farmers' children can then look forward to jobs in industry, which will now be sufficiently protected against smuggling.

[The author is chair of Agrinewsph, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agrinewsph@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 9502111.]

DOT moves to raise tourists spending

By Konrad W. Dasrinyas

WITH TOURISM REVENUE GROWTH BEING limited by an undersupply of accommodation facilities, the sector is eyeing increased earnings per visitor as the September Shopfest 2008 kicked off yesterday.

Shopfest, the country's first large-scale shopping campaign, is aimed at perking up the retail sector through a month-long activity to be synchronized by all the major malls in Metro Manila.

Tourism Secretary Ace Durano said Shopfest 2008 was also designed to promote Filipino brands and boost tourism spending by the country's foreign visitors as participating malls had prepared various marketing promotions.

Data from the Department of Tourism show that in 2007, those million visitors spent an average of $66.7 million a day. Of the average $82.86 a day that a tourist spent last year, about a quarter or $21.59 represented shopping expenses.

"Increasing the tourists' expenditures for shopping could substantially jack up the country's tourism revenues and generate demand-driven growth in various sectors of the economy, including the industrial and agricultural sectors," Durano said.

Further, the official said Shopfest was just one of several high-value activities that the DOT was planning to increase dollar revenues without having to bring in an "excessively large volume" of tourists that the country's tourist capacity might not be able accommodate.

Last month, Durano said the target of five million visitors in 2010 might not be realized because of the lack of accommodation facilities. He said hotels and other facilities being built would not be finished by then.

Durano said that with existing tourism facilities, tourist arrivals might grow to 4.2 million only.

"Expanding our overall tourism infrastructure and room capacity especially in the high-end segments—5- to 4-star accommodation...requires billions of dollars in public and private sector investments and a lot of time to complete," he said.

"While encouraging investment in tourism facilities, the DOT is striving to maximize the revenues and benefits from the volume of tourists that our still expanding capacity can presently handle," he added.

CEB posts record passenger traffic

CEBU PACIFIC HAS SET THE RECORD IN carrying the most number of passengers in the history of Philippine domestic air travel for a single month.

Based on CAO data, the airline carried 932,081 passengers in May 2008. Prior to this record, Philippine Airlines flew 883,423 passengers in May 1997.

In a statement, CEB vice president for marketing and distribution Candice Iyog attributed the growing domestic air travel market to the low year-round and promotional fares offered by the airline.

"CEB has been a catalyst in this growth and has made air travel so affordable up-front to many passengers with fares that are competitive with other modes of transport including buses and ferries," she said.

With the recent announcement of new flights from its Cebu hub and the addition of its Manila-Busuanga service, CEB now offers 1,006 local flights weekly and operates 19 routes to 27 domestic destinations.

Prior to its 10th year, CEB has the youngest aircraft fleet in the Philippines, comprised of 10 A319s, eight A320s, and two A330-300 aircraft.

LIFESTYLE Wellness

Breast cancer survivors hold reunion in Cebu

Silver Linings forum covers what you want to and must know

MARITONI Fernandez

THE KAMSERVE Foundation brings to Cebu Silver Linings, homecoming for breast cancer survivors in the country and relocational forum on breast cancer.

Waterfront Hotel in Lahug City, Cebu, co-hosts the event on Sept. 6, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Registration fee is P200. First 500 registered participants get free meals.

Event host is Vicky Macquere. Moderators include Michel Lana, Gaby de la Merced, Karen Davila, Mariwel Fernandez, Melissa de Leon, Twiggi Mercurio, Jade Ballesteros, Pinkki Wyss. Bruna Escalante is expected.

Topics include: Everything You Should Know About Breast Cancer, Coping With Cancer Treatments, When Cancer Returns, How Husbands of Cancer Survivors Cope, Grief, Reality in Living, Positive Spirit, Breast Cancer, Living Right During and After Cancer, Healing Through Music and Movement, Eating, Journey of Hope.

Free medical consultation will be offered. The C.Mo. week offers free breast screening and fasting blood sugar. Bra cause free screen.

Silver Linings is staged by the Kamserve Foundation, an advocacy group that provides hope and information to breast cancer patients. It also organizes early breast cancer screening. Survivors are mostly found on the mountains.

Silver Linings is supported by the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu City, C.Mo.

Parenting during cancer

By Carla Pama-Sison
Contributor

Ang sakit ng kalagkitan ay sakit ng buong katawan" (The pain in the little finger is felt by the entire body).

This is how Dr. Henry Gesmundo, clinical psychologist and professor at the University of the Philippines, describes a dilapidated medical illness in the family. "Even if only one member is ill, that illness affects the entire family's system. When an ill family is breast cancer because it affects the mother, often the central figure who holds most Filipino families together," says Gesmundo.

How can breast cancer patients cope with treatment and still be the same parent to their children?

DR. HENRY Gesmundo

Truth telling is key: I was vocal about preparing for the worst while hoping for the best

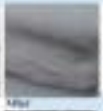
As a newly diagnosed patient in 2009, I had that challenge. I worried about not having the right answers to my children's questions. I fretted about not knowing enough about my own illness and not being confident about its prognosis.

I felt guilty over not being able to do all

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!
Skin and body care, the HUMANA way (Part 3)

Tense: Redefine Yourself with ThermaShape Radiofrequency Technology



Get rid of blemishes, spots, fine lines, sags and acne with
5-in-1 Blue Sapphire

Having great skin is now made fast and easy with the new multi-beneficial treatment. Blue Sapphire, engineered for men's skin, it gives 5 proven effective solutions in just 45 minutes:

1. Blender Microvator – buffs away old dead surface skin, acne scars, dirt and spots
2. Fine Line Reducer – boosts skin's elasticity and firmness to lessen lines
3. Skin Rejuvenator – delays aging, regenerates cells and keeps skin healthy
4. Sag Solution – tones muscles and tightens loose skin
5. Acne Zapper – kills acne bacteria, eliminates acne and inhibits breakout

The Result: Cleaner, smoother and younger-looking skin.

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TULDOK — By RAMIL COLL

PUGAD BABOY — By PINOY JUNKIE

DIVINE COMEDY — By STEVEN PABALINAS

HEKKOKOSHOE — By JOHNETTE DO

SALAMIN — By DARWIN PEREZ

BABY BLUES — By JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBBY — By LIRA GARCIA-LANO

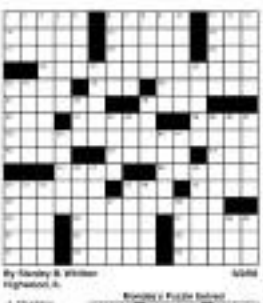
LOVEBONDS — By ELIZABETH CHONGUD

BINO MACHINE — By MARIO ABERIA

MEN — By DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

By Stanley S. Kirshen
Highwood, IL



ACROSS
1 Hermit's home
6 Appliance feature
11 "Bo Diddley" rightwork
15 Oil drawing
16 Charleston
18 Venezuelan flying creature
19 Hotel clerk
20 Hellenistic and Baroque
21 Road & Track
22 Motor away title
23 Omnivorous primates
25 Pt. of speech
26 Mimicry
31 Electronic "eyes"
32 Kennedy and Knight
33 Part of EST
34 Mexican peninsula
36 Tobacco bud
38 Dutch Antilles island
42 Coastal cedar
43 Of (slang)
44 Tundra member
46 "Yearning" opposite
48 Tokens off
50 Pre-fix frozen treats
52 Hamilton and Knight
55 Cartographer's abbr.
56 Cosmonaut's org.
57 Log home
60 Cushing
64 Lagos's locale
65 Vampire's companions
66 Old time counterfeit Pyle
67 Lennon
68 Federal area
69 Lawn tool

DOWN
1 Light touch
2 "Isaac"
3 Heaps; piles
4 Shaking; vapid
5 In addition
6 Mental measure
7 Bird cuts it
8 Hot wire
9 In a while
10 Tide fish
11 Pumice volumes
12 Mind; object
13 Surrounds and part from
14 Hamlet location
15 Down here
17 Bird Pittsburgh name
24 One in a cast
26 Wisconsin town
27 Cat cack
28 Cat's back?
29 Just got by
30 Shaking up
32 Invigoration
35 Nearly maintained
40 Hasp-fixed pin
41 Freshly garb
46 Erratic motorization
47 One in two life
49 Laughable
51 Tool
53 Narrow moment
54 Tiny in nose to Mahkovsky sensation
56 "___ of God"
57 Forensic aids
58 Curved molding
59 Pretty child
61 Back of a sweater

Monday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

FOR BORN TODAY: Here's a quick peek at your personal traits. People know that you're honest and fair. You value say you as your teamwork. You don't like cheaters. You have strong money skills and share your resources to help others—especially those in need. You're a natural leader. You're also very kind. Some find it tiresome that you set yourself on building and creating something important and real.

BORN ON THIS DAY: Actress Jessica Alba, actor Guy Lafleur, fitness guru Richard Simmons.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19). Excellent opportunities for you start to get best. Be organized today. Your planning capabilities, stamina, poise, the talkers or whatever it takes for the job.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20). This is a playful, romantic, adventurous day. Have fun today you. Set aside time for parties, movies, the theater, sports and a pleasant, rendezvous with someone.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20). Work and social obligations could be particularly gratifying. Be supportive to your role. Disciplined approach could be particularly gratifying.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22). You're social with short trips, errands and meetings. Be quick with sayings and wisdom. Make time to talk to others. Be sure you have a strong lead to accomplish.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22). You're definitely the center of your own universe. Be sure to balance your money expenditures this week. Watch your spending habits. Many of you are spending more as well. Plan.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). It could be a good time to get your financial affairs in order and reassess your relationship. Be sure to look out for your interests. Make the most of this. Be particular and important people are attracted to you now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). Work to avoid two extremes by yourself if you can. You tend to get carried away with your thoughts (don't).

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21). Make time to be with friends and groups. Because this is a very popular time for you. In particular, it's a positive time to share your dreams and goals for the future with others to see what their reactions and ideas are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). With the sun in the 3rd house of your chart you can really shine now. Writing, classes, parents, teachers and kids. Enthusiasm. You are in the mood and time to your advantage.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). You're in the mood for romance. If you are single, you can see if you connect with them. Don't sweat something you've been neglecting. Make it your personal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18). Work should be especially productive today. Be open to new ideas. Make sure that you're not overlooking important details. Be sure to get out and about.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20). Your communication skills are important today. Make sure that you're not overlooking important details. Be sure to get out and about. Be sure to get out and about.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

				4				
	4		7		2		6	
		9	1	5	6	8		
	1	6				4	9	
2		5				3		7
	7	8				1	5	
		3	5	9	7	6		
	8		4		1		3	
				6				

Difficulty Level ★★

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	4	8	6	9	5	7	3	1
1	7	6	3	2	8	4	5	9
5	6	3	4	7	1	8	9	2
8	2	1	9	6	3	5	4	7
6	9	4	7	5	2	3	1	8
7	3	5	1	8	4	6	2	9
9	5	7	2	4	6	1	8	3
4	1	6	8	3	9	2	7	5
3	8	2	5	1	7	9	6	4

Go bananas to boost your energy

WHEN YOU USE ANY AND ALL SKINcare regimens, make sure you don't overuse the products by combining all of them. Your complexion would get just so confused so you are. Choose a line of products suited to your skin type. And instead of buying the whole line of products, try a few items first.

Go for health food supplements, today most you are not allergic to the herbal preparations. Do research before including them in your daily regimen.

Stress can affect your body health and well. When you are in a state of anger or depression, your body to

INSIDE OUT

Gary Quirino

balance control, a stress hormone. Side effects include skin breakouts and blemishes. The anti-dote for stressed out skin is calm and peace. Natural medicine includes fresh, raw vegetables and fruits, plus lean meats, preferably fish and chicken. Good benefits come from adequate sleep, regular hydration with water and regular exercise.

Exercise eating wisely today so you will be better tomorrow. And postponing your trip to the gym will only add extra inches to your waistline within days. Also, when you're out with friends, share your food and appetizers then moderately.

Too much of good things

Sometimes, too much of a good thing is bad. Take red wine, for example. A glass or two is good for circulation and digestion, Mike Hatchet, you could get intoxicated and once brain cells destroyed becomes it too much of a bad thing.

Long term effects of consuming can be serious—from diabetes to obesity to choose your own poison. And be ready to pay the price.

The best way to prevent wrinkles is to stop smoking and drinking. Your skin is robbed of Vitamins C and E each time you smoke and drink.

Having beautiful and attractive can be an all-consuming passion. Some opt for the natural means, others surgically. Whatever your choice, try to maintain an natural a look as possible. You can maintain a youthful appearance through basic skin and health care. Moreover, a positive, cheerful attitude gives you that wonderful inner radiance.

Fruit of the week

When you're feeling exhausted, get an energy boosting potassium-filled boost—your banana.

Affirming Inflows: The difference between overdoing or underdoing anything is balance—the key to sane, living force.

"I am centered and all is well."

Love and light!

Look for the master within you

A 27-YEAR-OLD FRESHMAN, major in psychology who called herself "Mikael," e-mailed questions which could be of interest to readers, young and old.

She was candid—"I'm not a fan of yours, but your writings have been a good help to me."

She admitted to great interest in science and the occult. She had been reading about paranormal phenomena since high school.

At that time, she was interested only in seeking power since she was introduced to it by a friend who was a Wiccan, one who "had the ability to control the climate."

She said her ability to control her to go into the study of Wicca because every if she read books, it would just be like "a guide for the road."

But she wanted at first to follow in his footsteps, to have power. But people around her thought that to be dramatic. She found herself alone, without any teacher or mentor to help her.

When reading your book, 'Magic: the Power of Your Inner Mind,'" continued Mikael, "I learned it is not about power. What I want now is to be enlightened."

She said she had been looking for someone who could help her but couldn't find any because they wouldn't ignore her request for help. "Maybe because I'm just ordinary and I don't belong. I wish you could help me."

Thank you for being honest about not being a fan of mine. I am glad that my writings, nevertheless, have been of help, and that you have found the "power" but "to be enlightened."

For a 17-year-old woman, that's quite an achievement already. There's real progress in your soul development.

Answers

"Are Princess and psychic powers the same?"

The is the oft-ring whether

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime I. Licauco

When the student is ready, the master will come

"demand" and psychic are the same.

The answer is yes and no. All of us are psychics and, therefore, they are the same in that sense. But Wiccans seek power over nature and also over other people. They have their tools beads, chants, practices. Some may be highly developed psychics, like any member of any group or society.

The word psychic comes from the Greek word "psyche" which means "mind" or "soul," so anybody who has mind or soul is a psychic.

"Will there be a destined master for me?"

It is said, "When the student is ready, the master will come." But for me there is no greater master than your own self. Don't go looking for masters outside of yourself. The greatest masters live within themselves.

"I don't like to attend seminars because I'm not challenged like others. I study by myself, so how can I be enlightened?"

You don't have to attend seminars to be enlightened. Some of the greatest masters who ever lived never attended seminars nor met at the feet of so-called masters. Buddha never attended seminars, neither did Socrates or Jesus Christ.

As the Bible says, "Seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you."

Also, Jesus Christ said, "The Kingdom of heaven is within." That's why those who look for it outside themselves often get lost.

"As it is said to open my 3rd Eye, so it will be easy to open the rest of my chakras?"

There's been a lot of misconception about the Third Eye. The Third Eye is not like a door that one can open or close. The Third Eye is really clairvoyance. And one cannot open another's third eye with mere readers, drugs or surgery. The third eye is present in all people but they are not aware of this or how to use it. But like other natural skill or ability, such as chewing or singing, one has to have a more developed Third Eye than others.

What you lack is self-confidence. You have a poor or negative image of yourself. Actually I think you are far more advanced than those who only have powers but not wisdom. The questions you are asking show you are a deeper seeker of the truth and this in itself is a sign of an advanced soul.

Try to read my other books. I have written 18 of them and two new ones are coming up soon. They are now available at most branches of National Book Store and Power Books.

Note: The next Inner Mind Development seminar will be held Sept. 6 and 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Rm. 208 Felicia Building, 168 Legaspi St., Greenhills, Makati.

Call 826-7241, 892-8668, fax 865-0890; e-mail jlicauco@edsa.com.ph.

Free lectures for pregnant and new mothers

ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER OFFERS TOtal Family Health Care (TFC) programs on Sept. 6, St. Luke's TFC presents Stress-Free Pregnancy; Exercise and Relaxation by Moms and Babies, an interactive session for anticipating moms and interested parents.

Peggy Sy, physical therapist, is member of the Philippine Association for Childbirth Education.

Participants are encouraged to come in comfortable "work-out" clothes and to bring a small mat or large towel for exercises. Dr. Liz Tobol Inocencio, a pediatrician and US Licensed Reflexology educator, will also give a talk on Hands for Moms and Babies.

On Oct. 4, "Glowing and Huggable: Skin and Dad Care for Moms and Babies" will be discussed by a panel of experts. "Bathing Experiences and Newborn Care" is set on Nov. 8. This session will explore pregnant moms' feelings and perspectives as they deal with the child in their womb and the care they will receive during labor and delivery. It will also give a glimpse of what the newborn experiences at the hospital from birth until the mom and baby go home.

All lectures are free and start at 9 a.m. at the 2nd floor Conference Room of the hospital's main building. For details, call (632) 723-0101 ext. 5142, 4224 and 4288.

To receive TFC updates, join the stlukesbfc yahoogroups. by sending an e-mail to stlukesbfc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stlukesbfc.

Swim on track with the Lap Track

THE OLYMPIC FEVER CONTINUES TO INspire athletes and even ordinary individuals to pursue sports as a wholesome and exciting activity. Among many Filipinos, swimming stands out as a favorite hobby.

Swimmers, though, both amateur and professional, still need to be constantly monitored so that they can fulfill fitness goals and not over-exert themselves. Now, there is an instrument to readily help them monitor their laps and time in the pool.

Finis Inc. recently unveiled in the Philippine market its latest training gadget for swimmers: the Lap Track. This innovative equipment is an underwater clock that counts the number of laps made, records the time it took to complete each lap, the total swimming time and an estimate of the amount of calories burned.

It's also very simple to use. The whole Lap Track gadget is a button that, simply pressed, automatically starts and counts each lap completed.

Each time the Lap Track is pressed, the swimmer's split time will be displayed for five seconds or swimming "data" is stored. It also has a lap countdown feature which records the amount of laps until the target number is reached. This takes away the hassle of having to think of how much

LAP TRACK

longer one needs to swim, or find the swimmer can start concentrate on the workout.

The Lap Track can be attached to the side of a lap pool using suction pads. For pools that don't have smooth surfaces, an alternative option is the use of the rebounding cord to hang the Lap Track from the pool's edge.

Price for A Lap Track is exclusively distributed by Sports Resources Inc., and are now available at Toby's Sports selected branches. Call 8711950.

Parenting during cancer

From page 12

the things I used to do for the kids, like drive them to dentist appointments or check their school work.

Considering were is with telling is key. "If you don't know the answer, or are not sure, just say so. It is important to tell them the truth. But first, the mother must accept the her cancer. Otherwise, the child himself will not be able to accept that his mother is sick. This will just make it more difficult for the child to cope with changes in duties, roles and activities of cancer treatment."

Cried as chop pleased

It didn't take long for me to embrace life with breast cancer. Mine was in an advanced stage and I was vocal about preparing for the worst while hoping for the best.

My children, aged nine and five then, responded in their own way. They were open about their feelings, cried whenever they pleased, and sat with me or my husband whenever they had questions or wanted stories from outside home that bothered or puzzled them.

Children have wisdom. Depending on their age or stage of development, they have their own ability to grow while is going on. When parents fight and put on a brave face and smile and act as if nothing happened, they deceive themselves when they think the children do not know.

"In the area of illness, talking openly will give children the correct information to help them make sense of what is happening. Hiding information will only make them feel insecure and insecurity. What they imagine or fear may even be worse than what the parents are undergoing," explains Gonzalez.

Jessica Dalmau, now 18, was four when her mother was first diagnosed with breast cancer. She remembers being told, with her 9-year-old brother, about a "bad lump" in her mother's breast. Her mom had the affected breast surgically removed (in a procedure called modified radical mastectomy in 1989), followed by six weeks of radiotherapy.

As a result of this early exposure to cancer, she was raised to live a healthy lifestyle. "Because my mom had breast cancer, I grew up knowing that my risk for breast cancer is higher than others. So while we were young, it became a ritual, long before it was a healthy lifestyle, to be hard to drink carrot juice, we didn't like it but mom would say, 'Drink it! It's not a mere medicine, and it did more like medicine to us," says Jessica.

Self-blame

When she was 15, Jessica's mother was again diagnosed with cancer of the remaining breast. Although her mom had been open to their family about natural check-up results and her suspicion that something was wrong with the remaining breast, Jessica was affected more by the second diagnosis. Her mom was to undergo another mastectomy and was going for chemotherapy this time.

"I was older so I guess I could feel the gravity of the situation more. I felt lonely but I didn't show my mom. I didn't want to cry in front of her. Many in my room that first night as we confirmed that it was cancer, I cried and asked God why my mom—she's so good and faithful to Him."

Unlike younger children, Jessica did not fall into self-blame. According to research by Dr. Paula E. Roach, a child psychiatrist from the Harvard Medical School faculty who has a practice at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), "school-age children (7-12 years old) may feel guilty about things they have said or done to the parent."

However, educating them about cancer can help them understand and accept what their behavior did not cause the cancer.

"Children in this age group need to be educated that the cancer is not contagious and that not all cancers are caused by cigarette smoking. School-age children and adolescents understand the permanence of death; thus, the potential of death may be frightening," Roach says in a written speech in an article she co-authored and published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology Psych (founded and now directs the Parenting at a Challenging Time (PACT) Program of the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center).

Through research and experience over a decade, PACT has developed a set of guiding principles for how clinicians can help parents during these challenging times.

Gonzalez, an expert in child and family therapy, advises parents to emulate children's faith in life.

"We think children are so fragile and are with we never have to bother them about the unnecessary things. But we are not being fair to them in this way. We must trust in their wisdom and in their resilience. In the end, you cannot hide things from them. They can feel and hear and smell when something is wrong. And if we do not treat them with the truth, we are only making them distrust us as adults."

Turn to page 13

KAREN Davila

RETURN Escalante

Breast cancer . . .

From page 12

work, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Cebu Daily News, STAR-CBN, Pag-ibig and Pagcor.

There are also volunteers from the Cancer Care Network of Cebu Foundation Inc., Cancer Coal, Cebu Breast Cancer Network, Cebu Cancer Fight Inc., Kabayan Terracals, Philippine Oncological Nurses Association, Rotary Club of Cebu Fuentes, Rotary Club of Cebu and Cloister Manila.

For pre-registration and sponsorship inquiries, call 832-2400/TTY (Cebu), 632-6875962 (Manila) or e-mail nbcebu_mgc2006@yahoo.com.

For online registration, visit www.breastcancer.net.

JOANNE Salgado, Hollie Alonzo and Chino Persyn

BABY Antonio, Lily Aduna, Lola Miryan, Mia Marapao and Grace Tiongco

CHIT Bautista, Mimi Valerio, Bem and Nonoi Bustillo, Cristeta Munoz and Nini Valera

A surprise birthday party for Alex van Hagen

TE RODRIGUEZ, Pacita de Guzman and Bal Philips

BABY Dino

ANNABEL Lhuillier

FRANK Aduiana, Frank Drumtra and Jimmy Lim

TULO brothers Jose Tulo Sr. with Mona and Louie Tulo

EVELYN Lim Forbes, Bernie Harper and Fernando Zobel

BABES Santos, Bobby Cuenca and Anne Marie Bagsic

MARIT Yuchengco with a Filipiniana fan, given away during the event

MANDY Taboada

TOM Mirasol, head of sales and marketing, Ayala Land Premier; Bobby Le O', Malu Tulo-Le O'; Jimmy Ayala, president and CEO, Ayala Land; and Cesar Buenaventura

COSMO MANILA'S AGE SOCIETY photographer Alex Van Hagen doesn't have time to celebrate his own birthday. So his friends and colleagues gave him a surprise party.

The fun get-together, dubbings, took place at the posh Manila Golf Club in Forbes Park, Makati, with party guru Xenon Lemuel and Blue Seal leading the coterie of charitable ladies: Chit Salud, Cristel Wellie Abbas, Nicel Linares, Karen Macasaet, Nonie Bustillo, Lily Aduna, Baby de Jesus, Mabel Abalos, Baby Ortiz, Annabelle Adriano, Carrie Bautista, Tessie Briones, Agnes Hollenbeck, Nini Lopez, Kennet Libaro and Gilda Salonga.

Alex's reinvented guests flattered his [illegible] in a garden of sweet delights. They talked about their latest charitable causes over sumptuous treats.

All the glamorous ladies made Alex's afternoon especially unforgettable.

To our Alex V, cheers, pulangui! May you be blessed with more happy days.

Family affair

Well-respected José Tulo Jr., brilliant Atenean J. Ayala and heir-to-the-throne Fernando Zobel recently held a celebration at Montecito. A super generation of the Tulos is now an upscale residential community of Ayala Land Premier, with equestrian genes plus a cool private club where families can experience quiet comfort, dubbings.

The get-together called "Reminders into the Now" symbolizes the friendship between the Tulo and Ayala families.

Fernando Z. and Maite Tulo-Le O' welcomed the invitees into awesome afternoon, palanggas. The grand design of the Pista Parangal by a Tulo relative, Leandro Locsin, plus the storage area packed outside "made it feel like the good old days," palanggas.

The excellently prepared booth at the Pista Tiempo Ball by The Mace included a menu fit for a Reina. A hot cup of tsokolate capped the scrumptious snack.

As a bonus, Stella Rubott's popular Ekaddel's Steps dancers did a breathtaking number.

Then Fernando Zobel and Maite Tulo-Le O' gave a toast. "This was really born out of a vision and partnership to values. The Tulos have brought forth a naturally beautiful setting, thoughtfully planned and nurtured," said F. Zobel.

Yeah, palanggas, the 60-hectare residential area in Canlubang, Laguna, is semi-commercial-friendly, dubbings.

For info, call 8480000, log on to www.ayalaland-premier.com, e-mail ask@ayalalandpremier.com.

EVELYN Lim Forbes, Bernie Harper and Fernando Zobel

TOM Mirasol, head of sales and marketing, Ayala Land Premier; Bobby Le O', Malu Tulo-Le O'; Jimmy Ayala, president and CEO, Ayala Land; and Cesar Buenaventura

THE CELEBRATOR with the luminous Baby de Jesus, Tessie Briones, Agnes Hollenbeck, Kennet Libaro, Alex Van Hagen, Mabel Abalos, Malu Aduana (seated) Carrie Bautista, Karen Macasaet, Gilda Salonga, Nini Lopez and Nonoi Lopez

ANNABEL Adriano, Tessie Briones, Lily Aduna, Alex Van Hagen, Baby de Jesus, Monie Bautista (seated) Maurice Arcache, Chit Salud, Malu Abalos and Karen Macasaet

MINCHU Concepcion and Marivic Pacquiao

HAMELEDE Pearlina and Robert Constantia

Without batting an eyelash

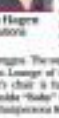
Photo by Alex Van Hagen using YBL Photo Solutions

Maurice Arcache

Fashion and technology

Dunhill and Mercedes-Benz Malaysia and recently introduced the technological advancements of Benz and Dubro (B&D), the automaker leader in creating brilliant design products, palanggas.

The posh Gallery of the 4x4 G5, was full of Malaysia cardholders who enjoyed having the latest Benz and Dubro equipment at 6-percent installment. Not bad, palanggas.

Circulating with the invitees were Architect of Merchtrend, Benz and Dubro, and Dunhill. A press and front-runners' was held while the handsome models showed off the latest Spring/Summer men's collection for 2008, dubbings.

Call Merchtrend's 24-hour Customer Service Hotline at (632) 8 700 707 for more info.

Portrait of elegance

September has just started yet we already hear of banners, chunky bells and final-runners, dubbings. But the core organizations that is working double time is the Catholic Women's Club (CWC). It's all set for its annual annual charity ball on Sept. 5, with the theme "Portraits of Elegance," palanggas. The super event will be held at the Main Lounge of the Manila Polo Club. This year's chair is hardworking and dedicated Lourdes "Sudsy" Raquel Ortiz, on loss, with co-chairpersons Kim Lobito and Baby de Jesus.

"The Catholic Women's Club founded in 1921 is one of the country's oldest charity organizations and is composed of successful women who are also leaders in their respective fields," explained by another participant wonders, Mimi Valerio.

She also said that the CWC ball is "for the benefit of more than 90 charity institutions, including the Hale Teacher Village which regularly depends on the CWC for its lifetime support."

Another worthy cause from the women who truly care for the less fortunate, palanggas.

Starting next week, Maurice Arcache's column, "Without Batting an Eyelash," will come out every Wednesday.

DEDO Lopa-hoot of Land & Homes, Ayala Land Premier; and Benny Ong-hoot, Ayala Land Premier

ELVIRA and Amon Yulo

NONIE Bautista, former president Myrna Barrozona, Nanet Lozano, chair Ruby Bayani (first), Tess Castro, co-chair Lyn Lokin (second row) Baby Gloria, Carrie Bautista, former president Mimi Valerio, co-chair Ruby de Jesus, Elmee Crispin, (third row) Monuca Blardony, Nikki Valerio, Mona Casimiro, Doreen Libaro, Mabel Abalos and former president Carmina Manotoc

TONY Meloto, president, Mercobank Card Corp., Lori Mirpuri, managing director of Benz and Dubro, Asia Pacific Region; and Cubbi Merrick of Dunhill

HUMMAT James, FVP-merchant acquiring, Mercobank Card Corp.; Peaches Correa, FVP-marketing and sales, Mercobank Card Corp.; and Arnie Cerro, VP for operations, MasterCard

BULGARI'S Maria Rangkok

NEDY Tanmoe and sister Marlene Tanmoe; (second row) Roger Johnson of Benz and Dubro and businessman Patrick Jacinto

LISA Macuja

ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Bonacua-Q. Velarde

Karylle out to show her best in 'West'

KARYLLE IS NOT WORRIED ABOUT HER JP Singalong Evolve watching her lovingly remove rock Christian Bautista in "West Side Story."

"I already told Dong the parts of the play where he should close his eyes," K said, giggling. She's thrilled that Lea Salonga came to watch the cast's rehearsals. "She taught me breathing exercises because she noticed that even if my voice was good, my body was collapsing."

Mom Zoraya Padilla sat on the side some try to coax Echo classic break. "But my mom wants to watch the actual thing so with costumes and all. I bought them tickets for Oct. 12 matinee show." (For tickets, call 376-3611.)

Hardest scene? "The Rinks. I get to successfully document that I end up lying on the floor and sleeping on my backpack."

Sleeping Beauty K is out to show that she's the best in the West (side story).

Quiet life

PRINCESS Punzalan is now living a quiet life in Connecticut with her American hubby whom she married in Boracay a few years ago. I remember Gino had a checklist of qualities she's looking for in a guy. Members of our "sisterhood," Pops Fernandez, Liezl Martinez and myself, teased her that she might find Mr. Right in a supermarket because of her "grocery list of traits."

Is she still efficient when her ex-hubby Willie Revillame gets understandably eccentric? "We're not in touch na," Gino said. "But let Randard me for the support and protect the last time we talked. He's thankful also to God for all the blessings. Or siya-siya sabihan na salamat nito ang finale. Iyon lang ang gusto."

Gino also learned now that she's away from the limelight? "The value of silence. Yes, I'm taking up cooking. What my mom taught me about keeping me feet on the ground has helped me adjust to my change of lifestyle here."

Gino "Bal" is now complete with all the "must-haves and must-wanted."

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

Teleradyo programs

DZMM TeleRadyo (Sky Cable 261 or dzMM Radyo Patrol 630 (mMM) with its weekly talent search for the best stand-up comedian in DZRJ (Laugh Out Loud) every Sunday at 1 p.m. hosted by Mariam Mitchell. "Showbiz Bistat" every Saturday at 6 p.m. hosted by my lovable EP comrade Amber Sahun and "Light Moments" every Saturday at 9 p.m. with my fave adviser Pedro

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

Hairloss is wrecking her life and she doesn't know why.

Thinning hair makes a woman look older. When your hair's health, shine and bounce weaken, it seems your personality is likewise affected. Self-consciousness, diminished self-esteem, even bouts of depression may occur.

Most women who have gone through this harrowing experience say they tried everything to stop hairloss, from special treatments at the salon, to a whole range of over-the-counter products. But nothing worked. Sadly, many "remedies" may have actually made the condition worse. Until they found out the reason why they were losing hair, little could be done to end the problem.

Possible reasons for hairloss.

Women's hairloss can be traced by hormonal changes. Female Pattern Baldness (or Androgenetic Alopecia) is a reaction to male hormones in the body (estrogens) which can weaken a woman's hair. Other factors can be stress, poor nutrition, illnesses and reaction to certain medications, childbirth and menopause, frequent coloring, curling, straightening, and many more. Most causes of hairloss, when they are correctly identified, can be treated with good results.

Getting the facts on why you are losing hair.

Trichology is the study of the functions and problems of hair. A trichologist is someone who has been educated in the subject and is qualified to determine the reasons why your hair is not in good health.

Where do you find a trichologist? One name that has been synonymous with Professional Trichology in the Philippines for more than 25 years: Svenson. Svenson trichologists will examine your hair and scalp and give you advice on what to do.

A trichologist – what does it cost?

Nothing. Svenson's trichologists offer an in-depth Hair & Scalp analysis totally free of charge.

Pre-hairloss symptoms.

Before your hair starts falling out, be aware of early warning signs such as persistent dandruff, flaking, and scalp irritations. Beat hairloss – see a trichologist when you see these signs!

These visible indications are embarrassing, and when combined with dirt in the atmosphere, shampoo chemicals or excess oiliness, they can block follicles, badly affecting hair growth.

Treatments to help your hair.

Depending on the findings of your Hair & Scalp analysis, you can decide on treatment programs including:

ULTRA AGE REINFORCER – deep-cleans scalp, creates healthier environment for growth. Hair becomes thicker, shinier, more lush.

ULTRA-LUXE FOLLIMIZER – quickly controls and stops hair fall, helps restore original hairlines, volume and softness.

SCALP-CORRECTIVE– eliminates dandruff, flaking and other irritations, returns scalp to normal state, prevents imminent hairloss.

Make an appointment today to see a trichologist free of charge.
Call Svenson at 889-4941/ 234-6851(Cebu).

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 SILENT FILM FESTIVAL Faces of Children

2 FOR THE FIRST TIME PG-13 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

3 STAR WARS: CLONE WARS G 2:10, 4:30

WALL-E (am) 10:45, 9:00

4 DEATH RACE R-13 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

SMOTHER PG-13 10:30, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35

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Cinema 1, Shang Cineplex

Shangri-La Plaza

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

SMOTHER

FOR THE FIRST TIME

WALL-E

DEATH RACE

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POWER PLANT CINEMA

SMOTHER - PG13

FOR THE FIRST TIME - PG13

STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS - G

BIG STAN - R13

CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

DEATH RACE - R13

HOURS & SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

OPENS SEPT. 3

SUNGKA

ATRACA R-13

VIN DIESEL BABYLON A.D.

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THEATRE MALL

PROMENADE

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1

GLORIETTA 4

GREENBELT 1

GREENBELT 2

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

MARKET! MARKET!

TRINOMA

AT THE MALLS

Glorietta

Greenbelt

Alabang Town Center

Ayala Center Cebu

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Ortigas

Ayala Museum

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CINEMA 1 P160

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MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 DEATH RACE
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 GRAVE DANCERS
4 SMOTHER
5 BIG STAN
6 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
7 THE MUMMY 3 / DOBOL TROBOL
8 Indistine: TAMBOLISTA
9 ESMANDALO
10 WALL-E / THE CLONE WARS

ERMITA

1 DOBOL TROBOL
2 WALL-E / THE MUMMY 3
3 SMOTHER
4 BIG STAN
5 FOR THE FIRST TIME
6 GRAVE DANCERS
7 DEATH RACE
8 ESMANDALO
9 MOONRISE FILM FESTIVAL

METRO EAST

1 BIG STAN
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME / FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 WALL-E / THE CLONE WARS
5 GRAVE DANCERS
6 THE MUMMY 3
7 DEATH RACE
8 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE

NOVALICHES

1 DEATH RACE
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 TOROTOT

PIONEER

1 DEATH RACE
2 GRAVEDANCERS
3 FOR THE FIRST TIME
4 SMOTHER

STA. ROSA

1 FOR THE FIRST TIME
2 JOURNEY to the CENTER of the EARTH
3 TOROTOT
4 DOBOL TROBOL

LIPA

1 THE X-FILES
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 MY SASSY GIRL

DASMARINAS

1 TOROTOT
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 DEATH RACE
4 FOR THE FIRST TIME

IMUS

1 DEATH RACE
2 TOROTOT
3 FOR THE FIRST TIME
4 DOBOL TROBOL

ANGELES

1 MY SASSY GIRL
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 ALTERED
4 DEATH RACE

STARMILLS

1 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 ALTERED
6 DEATH RACE

BACOLOD

1 FOR THE FIRST TIME
2 ALTERED
3 FOR THE FIRST TIME
4 WALL-E / DOBOL TROBOL
5 THE X-FILES
6 TOROTOT / LOST in BEIJING

ILOILO

1 THE X-FILES
2 FOR THE FIRST TIME
3 TOROTOT
4 ROGUE
5 LOST in BEIJING
6 WALL-E / DOBOL TROBOL

Rockin' with top guys

By Pachalin Concepcion

PEALS OF LAUGHTER fill the rehearsal room as Joey "Pepe" Smith cracks one joke after another.

Soon enough he settles down in front of the mic, as Nonoy Zuñiga tackles the knobs of his amp, getting ready to play guitar with his house band.

More musicians walk into the room — Louie Talan of Razorback and Pinkpikan, Cowboy Sunoo of the Blue Rain, Zarth Laurenz of Imago, Nicole Asencio and Bea Lao of Cowapine, and Wendell Cauilan of Paipil. They're part of dozens of artists rounded up to help Jacinto celebrate his

RJ Jacinto plays with his versatile house band (from left) bassist Owie Cardenas, drummer Marlo Moreno, keyboard guest Ervin Vinuya and co-singer Angie Bonsocan).

UNITED by rock. RJ with Joey "Pepe" Smith.

COWBOY Sunoo, son of Sandy(right).

WENDELL Sarcia of Paipil (far left) RJ and son RJ II (left).

Karylle out to show her best in 'West'

From page D1

Jimmy Cohen RVD.

My mom's first love was radio and she signed off on the MM airwaves. Mikmee mo? Tuck program mo sa "Tan tuckdito!

Guess list

• A model/ex-BF of a dramatic actress recalls: "She gets pissed when most people approach me than her at a party. Ayaw niya pag may mas-aattention-an/kinikilala sa akin. She gets insecure and thinks I want to bed with all the girls making love to me." What a drama queen-in-and-off-cam!

• A contestant in a reality show whispered to another contestant, "If I were 18 years younger, I won't let you go." The irate manager of reminiscence bit. I stepped back, "But even then, you'd still be 40!" Tito old with a fighting spirit that's too much!

KC shines

KC Concepcion shines in her movie "Its the First Time." I particularly liked her scene where she was begging Richard Gutierrez not to leave her.

She's neither DA nor pa-cute. It would have been better though if KC's dad Eddie portrayed her father in the film. Now that would really be a first of all times!

Polo's Standin

POLO Ravales opened his own bar, Standin, across ABS-CBN. In his business venture in preparation for marriage? "That's the farthest thing from my mind," replied Polo.

What next his birthday gift to his rumored GF Jean Garcia. "Something she can use every day pa-minsan de-opis ako 24 ore," Polo said, blushing.

I texted his rumored GF Jean Garcia. "Pag ready na kayo sesantos, let me know ha." She readily agreed.

There something smiles say it all for them. Sood they erase the obvious?

Perfect partner

TUTUBAN Mall hosted its Judy Ann Santos, with her Touch a Heart Foundation, as perfect partner for its outreach projects such as the Summer Drive and Mr. and Ms. Tutuban Mall Pageant. Judy's foundation started five years ago, supporting families of the Ayta community in Zambales, the special children of Hale Garden Village and a community service in Iloilo.

Judy's self-named the winners of the pageant on Sun., 08. (For details on how to join, log on to www.tutubanplaza.com.) No wonder, Judy is so blessed. Her kind deeds come back in her a hundred-fold!

PERSONAL: Happy Birthday to an angel of a friend, Susi Rose Gayda.

Dagbong salamat sa Abaripas Paramount of Ayo View Hotel and her mom Alice. Your kindness is the best patience from Davao.

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